Current Procedures: Pediatrics
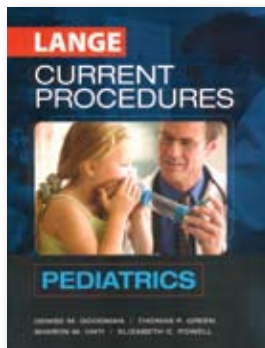
Denise M Goodman, Thomas P Green, Sharon M Unti, Elizabeth C Powell

United States: McGraw-Hill, 2007

ISBN 978 007 145908 2, $110.00

■ **Current Procedures: Pediatrics is a comprehensive text detailing medical procedures performed on the paediatric population. The focus is on technical detail rather than the diagnosis and management of paediatric conditions.**

The book is an easy reference tool as each chapter repeats the same template of indications/contraindications, equipment, risks, pearls and tips (very useful and practical), patient preparation and positioning, monitoring, complications and caveats, and follow up is included with every condition. There is nothing left out with regard to technical detail, and the illustrations clearly focus on the relevant anatomy – although I would seek more detail from an anatomy text before performing some of the more invasive procedures such as venous cut down.

Lacking is the usefulness in acute paediatric conditions. Despite the ABCs being dealt with first, the text does not include a lot of the essential information about resuscitation, including airway management, normal cardiovascular parameters, and fluid and drug requirements. The chapter on anaesthetics provides basic information only. Emergency medicine textbooks and manuals are needed for acute care.

However, this book is very useful to have on the shelf for teaching students and registrars, and to refresh the memory for procedures infrequently performed by some GPs. It is very time efficient having a good resource for reading before procedures are taught. Some of the illustrations would also help in explaining to both patients and parents procedures planned, or likely to be encountered, during specialist consultations. Clarity in procedures has been achieved, but I would envisage no particular benefit with decision making in using the text. As an addition to paediatric texts this book would enhance patient care, but reference texts for paediatric emergencies and clinical diagnosis and management are essential and more relevant.
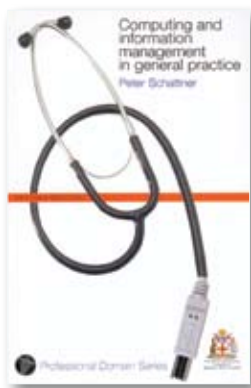
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Computing and information management in general practice

Peter Schattner

Australia: McGraw-Hill, 2007

ISBN 978 007 471 7776, $39.94

■ **This excellent book is the first in a new series of RACGP publications entitled the 'Professional Domain Series'. It is a practical guide to using computers and information technology (IT) in the general practice setting. As the author tells us in the introduction, the use of computers in general practice in Australia has gone from 15% in 1997 to 90% in 2005. The book is divided into six sections: computers, GPs and patients; computers and practice management; computers and clinical care; electronic resources; computer security; and quality and safety in general practice computing.**

At the beginning of each section, the author identifies relevant learning objectives. This is followed by handy tips, case studies, examples of templates and references to relevant websites. Schattner also sets out rules and standards for tricky areas such as communicating with patients by email, privacy and electronic records, and medicolegal risks.

This book can be read as a whole or each section can be examined independently. For example, a practice manager might benefit from the chapters on practice management and security; a new registrar might concentrate on the chapters on clinical care and electronic resources.

I particularly like Schattner's list of competencies for an IT literate GP – a sort of framework for obtaining your 'computer licence'. In many practices, one GP or staff member takes on the role of IT expert (responding to the call 'my printer's not working'!) This book is an excellent resource for that person and for other members of the general practice team as needed.

This book does not attempt to make GPs experts on networks, servers and VPNs. It is suitable for basic users. However, in a concise 130 pages, it also contains enough information to satisfy users with more advanced computer skills. I would highly recommend this book as an essential resource for every general practice (and division).

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