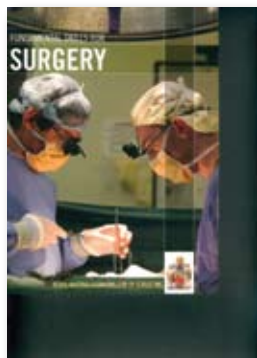


**Fundamental Skills for Surgery**

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
 Sydney, Australia: McGraw-Hill, 2008  
 ISBN 978 0 07471 335 8, \$69.95



■ The authors of 'Fundamental Skills for Surgery' are a group of 18 specialist and general surgeons from Australia and New Zealand under the auspices of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. This book is principally written for the basic surgical trainee but has applications for GP surgeons or GPs with a special interest in skin surgery.

There is an emphasis on basic operative skills, surgical instruments, sterile technique and standard precautions. These are mainly oriented to the hospital theatre setting. However, some lessons are applicable to treatment rooms in the general practice setting. Skills covered include surgical knot tying, suturing, stapling, dissection, haemostasis, debridement and assisting techniques. Simplified diagrams illustrate these techniques.

Other chapters deal with the broader aspects of surgery including clinical decision making, communication, team work, safety and managing adverse events.

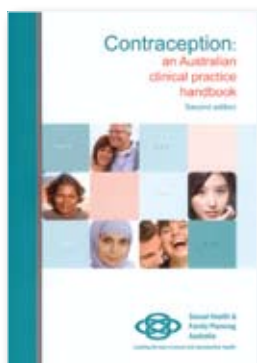
In addition, there are chapters on wound management, local anaesthesia, management of joints (including aspiration and injection) and fracture fixation which have direct general practice application. In fact, these particular topics are treated a little superficially for the experienced GP.

This book appeal will to GP surgeons, general practice registrars undertaking an advanced rural skills post or advanced specialist training in general surgery and the increasing number of GPs with a special interest in skin surgery. Some sections may also be of use to regional training providers conducting surgical skills workshops.

Nick Cooling  
 Mt Nelson, Tas

**Contraception: an Australian Clinical Practice Handbook, Second edition**

Sexual Health & Family Planning Australia  
 Canberra: Sexual Health & Family Planning Australia  
 ISBN 1877 026 158, \$55.00



■ Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia are to be congratulated on producing another useful resource for GPs. Most would agree that it would be preferable if more pregnancies were planned so that mothers and babies could benefit from the improved health outcomes associated with a planned pregnancy.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, including reproductive health. This implies that men and women have the right to be informed and have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of fertility regulation, and access to health care services which improve the chance of having a healthy baby.

Contraceptive choices continue to increase, as does knowledge about the relative benefits and harms. So it is good to see an up-to-date version of this handbook on contraception in Australia. This book is fully revised and full of clear information to guide the busy GP through the confusion of so many contraceptive choices.

This book is evidence based and covers safety using WHO and United Kingdom medical eligibility criteria, providing safety ratings, risks of harms and any contraindications for a given method. Importantly, it provides additional information on drug interactions, efficacy, reversibility, user friendliness and costs. There is guidance about contraception for younger and older women, and those with a range of medical complaints, as well as time delay to contraception and what to do about missed pills.

The practical approach taken in this book means that pregnancy rates are calculated for 'typical use' as well as 'perfect use', an important distinction to make in the real world of general practice.

Jane Smith  
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