

# KNOWLEDGE CENTRAL

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Associate Editor

## B O O K S

**Culture and Clinical Care.** *Juliene G. Lipson and Suzanne L. Dibble\* (Eds.). San Francisco, CA: University of California, San Francisco, Nursing Press, 2005, 512 pages, \$33.95.*

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*Culture and Clinical Care* offers an excellent overview of the provision of culturally appropriate health care to 35 different cultural groups. The editors, both nurses, are careful to avoid using the phrase “cultural competence” because it implies mastery when caring for a broad range of culturally diverse populations. Instead, the book is designed to enhance awareness, sensitivity, and knowledge (ASK) among healthcare providers caring for culturally diverse populations. Using this framework, ASK can enable healthcare providers to offer more effective, culturally appropriate care. The de-emphasis on cultural competence is a unique and interesting perspective as providers strive to offer quality and appropriate care to diverse groups of individuals.

In the introduction, the editors briefly describe the various sources of diversity (e.g., immigrant or refugee status, race or ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status) and conclude with a discussion on the aspects of communication, as well as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and its relevance to providing interpreter services. Although broad, the information on communication is applicable to all groups, regardless of cultural back-

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ground. A detailed cultural assessment is preferable when caring for patients, but five key questions are offered that can be used when conducting a cultural assessment for any cultural group.

All contributing authors for the 35 chapters follow a consistent format addressing the following categories: cultural or ethnic identity, spiritual or religious orientation, communication (oral, written, nonverbal), activities of daily living, food practices, symptom management, birth rituals or care of a mother and baby, developmental and sexual issues, family relationships, illness beliefs, health issues, and death rituals. Populations are alphabetized and range from Afghans to former Yugoslavians.

Strengths of the book are its easy-to-read and consistent format and its inclusion of a wide range of cultural groups that is not limited to racial and ethnic minority groups (i.e., groups with a population of more than 100,000 according to the U.S. Census and those with limited published information). A strong feature of the text is its inclusion of each contributor’s brief biography and photograph. The contributing authors and editors are either members of the respective cultural group about which they are writing or have some affiliation or experience working with their respective group. This information serves to enhance the book’s credibility. The authors are careful to acknowledge limitations of the book in the first chapter, thus orientating readers upfront to the book’s intent, which is to offer guidance and hopefully stimulate further inquiry related to providing culturally appropriate health care. The authors clearly achieve this goal, with a focus on using guidelines versus a cookbook approach when caring for a growing number of culturally diverse populations.

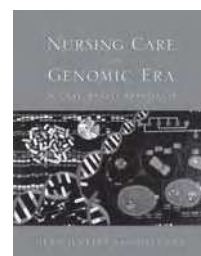
Given the increasing need and challenges associated with caring for diverse populations, healthcare providers, regardless of their area of practice or specialization, will find this book user-friendly, timely, and

a must-have when caring for patients in today’s healthcare arena.

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**Nursing Care in the Genomic Era: A Case-Based Approach.** *Jean F. Jenkins and Dale Halsey Lea\*. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2005, 411 pages, \$49.95.*

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In 2003, the completion of the human genome sequence occurred in tandem with the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the structure of the DNA molecule by James Watson and Francis Crick. We are living in

an era of unprecedented scientific discovery that promises to bring an understanding of human disease at the genetic level, as well as medicine that is, in the words of Leroy Hood, preventive, predictive, and personalized. The power of genomics rapidly is changing the understanding of the pathophysiology of cancer and, hence, its management. Oncology nurses of the 21st century must have a basic understanding of genetic principles and resulting implications for the care of patients. The authors of this book are well-recognized leaders in the field of genetics and have shared their knowledge and expertise with the nursing profession in a creative way in this insightful text.

The goal of *Nursing Care in the Genomic Era: A Case-Based Approach* is to relate the principles of genetics and genomics and the resulting implications for nursing practice through stories. Each chapter highlights a story of a particular genetic condition and the related biologic, personal, and psychosocial issues. Chapters then discuss the required knowledge, skills, and attitudes that nurses and all healthcare professionals should possess to provide optimal care. The core set of skills is based on the work of the National Coalition for Health Professional Education in Genetics (NCHPEG) ([www.nchpeg.org](http://www.nchpeg.org)).

Ease of Reference and Usability	Content Level	Media Size
🕒 Quick, on-the-spot resource	✓ Basic	👤 Pocket size
🕒🕒 Moderate time requirement	✓ ✓ Intermediate	👤👤 Intermediate
🕒🕒🕒 In-depth study	✓ ✓ ✓ Advanced and complex, prerequisite reading required	👤👤👤 Desk reference

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/06.ONF.159-161