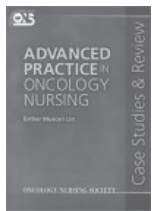


B O O K S

Advanced Practice in Oncology Nursing: Case Studies and Review. *Esther Muscari Lin* (Ed.). Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders, 2001, 472 pages, \$46.95.*

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As usual, the Oncology Nursing Society is in the vanguard of shaping advanced practice nursing and preparing oncology advanced practice nurses (APNs). The purpose of this text is to assist oncology APNs to prepare for certification. The editor notes that this is not meant to be a quick reference, and she is right. Although the book's primary purpose is to help APNs review critical advanced oncology nursing content, other users, such as educators and practicing APNs, will find it useful.

The book has three sections organized according to the role components of advanced nursing practice: (a) direct caregiver, (b) administrator/coordinator, and (c) consultant, researcher, and educator. As one would expect, the section devoted to direct care is the most extensive (24 chapters) and includes chapters on common cancer diagnoses, pain, genetics, and cancer emergencies. The other two sections include three chapters each.

This publication has many strengths and few limitations. Although the book had 14 contributors, a great deal of consistency exists across chapters. The editor and contributors have ensured that the case method they use is grounded in the institutional realities of day-to-day inpatient and outpatient care. The

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text uses logically developed case studies (many chapters have more than one) followed by questions and answers. The direct caregiver section includes multiple-choice questions, and a discussion of the underlying logic is provided before the answer is given. The case studies include patients of both genders and a range of socioeconomic classes and address the many medical (e.g., disease diagnosis and treatment) and nursing concerns that arise in nursing practice. The case studies will be particularly useful for students and novice nurse practitioners, who often articulate the challenge they experience in maintaining their nursing focus and expertise while refining their skills in diagnoses and treatment. Another strength of the case studies is that they incorporate important and common team issues.

A similar case study format is used in the last two sections. As a case unfolds, case segments are followed by questions and answers, but the types of questions are matching, sentence completion, open-ended, as well as multiple choice. The reader is unprepared for these differences. If the certification examination contains all multiple-choice questions, in addition to surprising the reader, an element of truth with regard to the examination is lost. If the editor and contributors believed this change in questions was important, it easily could be addressed in the preface in a future edition.

Other limitations were minor and more apparent in the latter two sections. Throughout the book, many chapters invite the readers to problem solve by using the second person. Some chapters describe a case objectively. Both approaches work, although I found the first to be more engaging. One chapter has a "Case Study" heading but starts immediately with questions and includes no case study until the end of the chapter. The clinical chapters were more likely to have a significant portion of later references (1997–2000); the chapters on the other role compo-

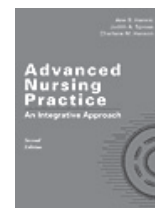
nents relied on classic references and a large portion of references published before 1997.

These limitations do not undermine the usefulness of the book, and many easily can be addressed in the preface and in the instructions to authors in the next edition. Although I will not need to take the recertification examination for three more years, I plan to use this book (or its next edition) to help me review and prepare.

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Advanced Nursing Practice: An Integrative Approach (2nd ed.). *Ann B. Hamric, Judith A. Spross*, Charlene M. Hanson. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders, 2000, 880 pages, \$54.95.*

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If you are an advanced practice nurse (APN), manage APNs, educate APNs, or are in a graduate nursing program, you will benefit from using this book. It is well thought out and incorporates a very comprehensive definition of advanced practice nursing. The primary author relies on it for leading the APNs in her institution. As an experienced APN, I found it an excellent refresher course that challenged me to evaluate my own practice. The book's stated goal is to propose a standardized, clear definition of advanced practice nursing that can be used to navigate the dynamic healthcare scene. That goal is achieved.

The first section of the book traces the historical and conceptual evolution of advanced practice nursing. The gem of this section is a beautifully written chapter by Hamric that defines advanced practice nursing. She clearly grounds the role in direct care and lays the foundation for the rest of the book. The next section defines each competency of advanced practice nursing. All of the sections

Ease of Reference and Usability	Content Level	Book Size
🕒 Quick, on-the-spot resource	✓ Brief, with more questions raised than answered	📖 Pocket size
🕒🕒 Moderate time requirement	✓✓ Useful, supplemental resources required	📖📖 Intermediate
🕒🕒🕒 In-depth study	✓✓✓ Thorough discussion of topic; can stand alone	📖📖📖 Desk reference

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