

# KNOWLEDGE CENTRAL

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Associate Editor

## B O O K S

**Surgery: A Patient's Guide From Diagnosis to Recovery.** *Claire Mailhot, Melinda Brubaker, and Linda Garratt Slezak.* San Francisco: University of California, San Francisco, Nursing Press, 1999, 272 pages, \$20.

   **Softcover**



With an estimated 50 million surgical procedures performed each year in the United States, consumers need to know what they can do to ensure the best possible outcome. Three RNs who are experienced in the care of surgical patients compiled a consumer guide to meet this need. Their purpose for writing the book, *Surgery: A Patient's Guide From Diagnosis to Recovery*, is to provide consumers with a comprehensive description of the entire surgical experience to lessen their anxiety and encourage a positive outcome. Through their concise chapters and summary worksheets, the authors have achieved their goal in an exceptional manner.

The book is comprised of 14 chapters, covering everything from how to select a surgeon and what actually goes on in the operating room to how to review a hospital bill. Each chapter begins with a patient scenario to introduce the topic through the patient's view, which adds a personal connection for readers. The entire trajectory of the patient's experience with a surgical procedure is well outlined. The descriptions of how to prepare for surgery, questions that should be asked, and what to expect during recovery on a hospital unit provide readers with a clear picture of these experiences.

The financial aspects of a surgical treatment are particularly well summarized. The chapter titled "Understanding Your Health Plan" summarizes health insurance and explains the background of healthcare costs in the United

States. The last chapter includes an informative description regarding interpreting a hospital bill and challenging erroneous charges.

As a reviewer, I found that each topic was covered thoroughly yet concisely with helpful attention to detail. Several chapters include a summary checklist or worksheet about the key points. An extensive glossary and reference list complete this informative handbook. The book's length might appear intimidating for some readers; however, many readers will find the explanation and detail very helpful in providing them with confidence as they approach their surgical experience. Most patient education books address specific diseases or treatment. *Surgery: A Patient's Guide From Diagnosis to Recovery* is unique in its broad application to any type of surgical procedure. Oncology surgical nurses will find it a helpful addition to their preoperative patient education libraries.

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**Hospice and Palliative Care: Concepts and Practice (Second Edition).** *Walter B. Forman, Judith A. Kitzes, Robert P. Anderson, and Denise Kopchak Sheehan (Eds.).* Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett, 2003, 288 pages, \$42.95.

   **Softcover**



*Hospice and Palliative Care: Concepts and Practice* is unique in that the editors and contributors represent disciplines such as pharmacy, nursing, medicine, law, and social work, which provides interesting perspectives on this important topic. The main difference between the first edition and the second is that the new edition incorporates developments from the field of palliative care since the

late 1990s and includes contributions from advanced practice nursing.

The text's primary focus is the hospice setting, although the content is also appropriate for those working in palliative care. The book begins with the historical development of hospice and palliative care, the interdisciplinary team, eligibility and reimbursement issues, clinical settings, and quality improvement. Chapters cover information about common symptoms, grief, family support, and death education, as well as communication, ethical, and legal issues. The chapter about legal issues gives a clear overview of common law and patient rights and lists a number of documents that may be beneficial to patients, families, and healthcare providers. The text concludes with a unique chapter of case studies that illustrate familiar issues in end-of-life care and a helpful update on informatics and Internet resources.

Both practicing healthcare professionals and students will find an excellent overview of end-of-life care in this text. In fact, because of its range of topics with theoretical and practical content, *Hospice and Palliative Care* could be used as a textbook or in a continuing education program for practicing healthcare professionals or a graduate interdisciplinary course. However, clinicians who need in-depth information about daily management strategies involved in palliative and hospice care patients should refer to other resources such as the End-of-Life Nursing Consortium curriculum.

The major strengths of the text are its detailed table of contents and tabular data. Several tables synthesize important information and serve as quick references for readers. In addition, each chapter includes suggestions for further reading and/or references. The short chapter length makes the book easily readable despite its small print.

The weaknesses of this text focus on three main areas. First, the role of the spiritual care professional, a core member of palliative care and hospice teams, is not addressed adequately. Second, the use of complementary therapies in palliative care is discussed only in the context of pain management. Third, information about the challenges and current state of quality improvement in end-of-life care is not included.

Overall, *Hospice and Palliative Care* presents the complexity and range of end-of-life care in the United States today. The

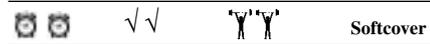
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/05.ONF.382-384

Ease of Reference and Usability	Content Level	Book 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

large number of contributing authors lends a diversity of perspectives to the information presented, although overlap does occur occasionally. This text is a valuable addition to the literature.

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**Instruments for Clinical Health-Care Research (Third Edition).** Marilyn Frank-Stromborg and Sharon J. Olsen. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett, 2004, 713 pages, \$68.95.



*Instruments for Clinical Health-Care Research* is an essential resource for nurse researchers. The text strives to achieve six goals: (a) Review key critical issues that influence the design, development, and utilization of clinical research instruments; (b) review available instruments that measure select clinical phenomena; (c) describe available psychometric properties for each tool; (d) review selected studies employing the tools; (e) identify instruments' strengths and weaknesses; and (f) discuss the relevance of each instrument for healthcare research.

Now in its third edition, this text continues to serve as an excellent resource for oncology nurse researchers and healthcare professionals in educational, clinical, and research settings who are interested in conducting clinical research. Authored by a prestigious group of nationally and internationally recognized nurse scientists, the encyclopedic-type text provides readers with an overview of several issues that influence the design, development, and use of clinical research instruments, as well as overviews, summaries, and critiques of instruments that have been used since the mid-1990s to study an array of clinical phenomena.

Included in Part I of the text are narrative discussions relevant to instrument evaluation and selection, adaptation of instruments for use among culturally diverse and medically underserved populations, linguistic translation of clinical research instruments, and the conduct of research with infants, preschool children, school-age children, adolescents, and older adults. Parts II, III, and IV provide a history, overview, and critique of the instruments commonly used in clinical research to assess health status, cognitive function, and physical function; health promotion; and skin integrity, bowel elimination, mobility, potential for falls, cardiac parameters, dyspnea, fatigue, nausea and vomiting, and vaginitis, respectively.

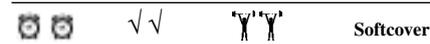
Appendices are used throughout the text to provide a concise yet detailed sum-

mary and critique of the selected clinical research instruments. The appendices are especially useful for researchers interested in comparing and contrasting the dimensions measured, as well as the structure, psychometric properties (reliability and validity), administration, and utilization of clinical research instruments.

*Instruments for Clinical Health-Care Research* is a comprehensive text that should be found in the personal libraries of every researcher conducting clinical research, as well as the library of every academic medical institution. However, given the challenges posed to the nation by the Department of Health and Human Services in Healthy People 2000 and Healthy People 2020, one limitation worthy of note for future editions is the lack of integration of narrative comment and critique by the authors about the selected instruments relative to their utility in research involving medically underserved populations, culturally diverse populations, and populations for whom English is a second language, as well as research aimed at reducing health disparities.

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**Meeting Psychosocial Needs of Women With Breast Cancer.** Maria Hewitt, Roger Herdman, and Jimmie Holland (Eds.). Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2004, 277 pages, \$45.



According to *Meeting Psychosocial Needs of Women With Breast Cancer*, psychosocial support services are an essential component of quality cancer care, but only 10%–30% of women with breast cancer have used them. However, 66% of significantly distressed women would access these services if they were available. This book is directed to those interested in quality breast cancer care, specifically stakeholders, policymakers in cancer care, women with or concerned about cancer, and the interested general public. Administrators, program managers, oncology personnel, researchers, and grant writers all would find this book to be a valuable resource.

Various barriers to the provision of psychosocial care, including economic and time constraints and the increasing fragmentation of care, particularly in the outpatient setting, are discussed. Issues such as the need for valid screening and assessment tools to measure psychosocial distress, as well as anxiety and depression from diagnosis to the end of

life, are addressed. In addition, the authors discuss the need for proper research and testing environments for psychosocial care. An analysis of interventions, categorized by type, setting, and practitioner, is provided, including discussions about studies that measure the effectiveness of the interventions. Services that are available nationally are presented along with online resources.

The text comprehensively reviews research studies addressing psychosocial issues that are being undertaken as part of clinical trials. All studies are described in evaluative detail, and the text lists their strengths and weaknesses. Funding opportunities for psychosocial programs are discussed. The strength of this publication is its comprehensive approach to all of the issues related to psychosocial care, from planning to evaluation. Each chapter has an ample reference list, which, if compiled, is an excellent review of the literature. The tables and graphs are well designed. Healthcare providers can read about the design, evaluation, and utilization of superior programs and review the listing of national guidelines for psychosocial care. The wealth of content in this book could be intimidating, which may limit its value for the general public. However, administrators, researchers, and oncology professionals involved with psychosocial care of patients with breast cancer will find this resource invaluable.

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## Worth a Look

**Running for Our Lives: An Odyssey With Cancer.** Kathryn H. Anthony with Barry D. Riccio. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2004, 292 pages, \$19.99.

"On Monday, September 13, 1993, lightning struck us," said Kathryn H. Anthony when describing her husband Barry D. Riccio's diagnosis of leiomyosarcoma. The pages of *Running for Our Lives: An Odyssey With Cancer* are a contemplative and heartfelt tribute to Barry's fight for life. Kathryn's portrayal of their seven-year journey through multiple states, medical teams, and procedures is gripping and highlights the importance of perseverance, support, and active involvement in treatment when battling cancer (or any other life-threatening illness). Their story will be inspiring to others facing cancer, their caregivers, and those in the medical community.

Readers will feel they accompany Kathryn and Barry in their personal struggle as they describe the medical side of the battle, as well as the financial and emotional costs. Being college professors and having friends

as personal resources (e.g., doctors, nurses), Barry and Kathryn had more support and were more aware of the importance of research than most people in their situation. This text shows patients' reality beyond their interaction with healthcare professionals.

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**Breast Cancer Husband: How to Help Your Wife (and Yourself) During Diagnosis, Treatment and Beyond.** Marc Silver. Emmaus, PA: Rodale, 2004, 319 pages, \$14.95.

This text is intended to fill a gap in the literature by addressing the role and needs of husbands or partners of women with breast cancer by offering information from prominent healthcare professionals and more than 100 couples who have fought this disease. The book covers everything from sorting through surgical options to how to

respond when a woman is distressed about her diagnosis.

*Breast Cancer Husband* includes a glossary of medical terms, checklists of questions for doctors, information about breast reconstruction, tips on coping with side effects and aftereffects of chemotherapy, guidance for telling children about the diagnosis, and handling parents and in-laws who meddle too much or are afraid to say anything. This book helps men understand that caregiving is about figuring out what their partners need, which may change from day to day or even hour to hour. 

**Do you have comments or a book or Web site that you would like to suggest for review?**

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