

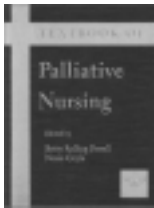
REVIEWS

Nancy Phelan Walsh, RN, MSN
Associate Editor

B O O K S

Textbook of Palliative Nursing. Betty Roll-
ing Ferrell*, Nessa Coyle*, editors. New
York: Oxford University Press, 2001, 854
pages, \$85.

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Despite the increased at-
tention that end-of-life care
has received nationally, re-
markably few textbooks are
available that provide the
theoretical base for the prac-
tice of hospice and palliative
care nursing. With the ad-
vent of graduate programs in palliative care
nursing, the availability of appropriate texts for
teaching becomes even more critical. The *Text-
book of Palliative Nursing* is a turning point in
the history of palliative and hospice nursing.
The importance of this text is highlighted by
the prefaces contributed by three pioneers in
the field of hospice and end-of-life care: Dame
Cicely Saunders (chair, St. Christopher's
Hospice, London), Florence Wald (a leader in
founding the first U.S. hospice in Connecti-
cut), and Jeanne Quint Benoliel (professor
emeritus, School of Nursing at the University
of Washington). The editors themselves are
distinguished practitioners, researchers, and
leaders in the field of palliative care. The con-
tributing authors also include many who have
assisted in improving practice, research, and
publication in end-of-life care and, in particu-
lar, the assessment and management of physi-
cal, psychosocial, and spiritual symptoms as
well as the understanding of grief and bereave-
ment. Many are considered to be experts in
their area of subspecialty.

The text enlarges the world of hospice and
palliative care nursing beyond the United
States through a substantial section on inter-
national perspectives of palliative nursing.
This is a welcome addition to a text of such
depth and breadth. Contributions were sub-

mitted from Africa, Asia, Australia, and Eu-
rope; however, none were found from any of
the predominantly Muslim countries of the
Middle East. Although Canada and South
American countries are mentioned, Mexico is
noticeably absent.

The strengths of the text lie in its chapters
on the assessment and management of specific
physical, psychosocial, and spiritual symp-
toms. Pain and symptom management are the
core expertise of hospice and palliative nurses.
This topic organization assumes that symp-
toms arising from different body systems are
assessed and managed similarly regardless of
the disease process involved. This is true to a
large extent; however, nurses practicing in
end-of-life care sometimes find it difficult to
locate information on the course of advanced
disease, especially for noncancer, end-stage
disease. Some special populations are covered
very well, including the elderly, pediatric pa-
tients with cancer, the poor and underserved,
and patients with AIDS.

In many instances, the *Textbook of Pallia-
tive Nursing* provides detailed information re-
garding pharmacologic and complementary
approaches; in fact, an entire chapter focuses
on complementary therapies. As palliative
nurses look to pharmacologic interventions to
provide relief to patients, they also need to
examine more thoroughly the pitfalls of poly-
pharmacy as multiple symptoms are managed
simultaneously. This topic should be covered
in future texts: How do nurses manage drug-
drug interactions and limit the side effects of
medications as they try to provide expert pain
and symptom relief?

The nature of palliative care involves deal-
ing with the transition of patients from "cura-
tive" care to "supportive" or "comfort" care.
The chapter on establishing goals and commu-
nicating with patients and families experienc-
ing this transition and the chapter on support-
ing families in palliative care are excellent. The
text is unique in addressing the palliative
needs of patients such as those in intensive
care and rehabilitation units.

The *Textbook of Palliative Nursing* is well
worth acquiring, especially for those interested
in expanding and enlarging their practice and

understanding and for those who are teaching
or orienting hospice and palliative care nurses.

Lynn Borstelmann, RN, MN, CHPN,
AOCN®
Director, Continuum of Care
University Hospital
State University of New York Upstate
Medical University
Syracuse, NY

**Principles and Practice of Palliative Care
and Supportive Oncology (2nd ed.).** Ann M.
Berger*, Russell K. Portenoy, David E. Weiss-
man, editors. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams
and Wilkins, 2002, 1,200 pages, \$159.

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*Principles and Practice of Palliative Care and Sup-
portive Oncology* is a com-
prehensive resource that
addresses physical, psy-
chosocial, and spiritual con-
cerns of patients with can-
cer and their families. With
a focus on palliative care and supportive oncol-
ogy medical practices, this book includes strat-
egies that support patients from the time of di-
agnosis until death. The editors have recruited
an impressive, multidisciplinary cadre of chap-
ter authors. Although physicians (i.e., practic-
ing oncologists) are the text's targeted audi-
ence, oncology nurses will find the content rel-
evant and vital to cancer nursing practice.

The book is divided into six segments:
symptoms and syndromes, issues in palliative
care, ethical considerations in palliative care,
special interventions in supportive and palliative
care, special populations, and research issues in
supportive and palliative care. Each chapter is
concise, yet comprehensive. Numerous assess-
ment tools, treatment algorithms, and tabular
information enhance clinical utility. The second
edition is even more comprehensive than the
first because the editors added new chapters on
hiccups, physiatriac approaches to care, bone
pain, management of coagulopathies, manage-
ment of heart failure, cross-cultural issues,
models of palliative care, ethics and the law,
music and art therapy, and complementary and
alternative approaches.

Oncology nurses will find this textbook
useful as a resource for daily patient care man-
agement questions and palliative care program
planning. Although *Principles and Practice*
includes all relevant clinical care topics, nurses

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, pre- requisite reading required	📖📖📖 Desk reference

* Oncology Nursing Society member