Critical Decisions in Emergency and Acute Care Electrocardiography
William Brady and Jonathon Truwit, eds.
Chichester, United Kingdom: John Wiley & Sons Ltd; 2009. Paperback; 492 pages; $99.95. ISBN: 978-1-4051-5906-7

Reviewed by Linda Bell, RN, MSN

Even though the publisher of this book is in the United Kingdom, the editors are “local”; they are from University of Virginia, Charlottesville. The unique perspective of this book is the scenario-based content with the title of each chapter written as a particular question to be answered in that chapter. The cases and electrocardiograms (ECGs) are familiar and may sound like patients in your emergency department and acute or critical care units.

The chapters in this book are arranged in content areas. Six chapters are devoted to clinical practice, addressing the various considerations for reading and using the 12-lead ECG as a diagnostic tool. The next 6 chapters focus on cardinal presentations, that is, syncope and chest pain. The value of the ECG in acute coronary syndrome covers 15 chapters; dysrhythmia interpretation covers 8 chapters. Use of the ECG for diagnosis and patient management in critical care is covered in 9 chapters; next, 4 chapters discuss toxicology and the ECG; and, lastly, 8 chapters address the use of 12-lead ECG in differential diagnosis.

Each chapter of this book starts with case presentations including the 12-lead ECG tracing. Discussions continue about the relevance of the ECG to clinical presentation, usefulness of the ECG as a diagnostic tool, and any confounding variables. The actual ECGs presented in the book are clear and easy to view. The information is supported with references to current evidence.

*Clinical Decisions in Emergency and Acute Care Electrocardiography* is of interest to anyone who wants to learn more about 12-lead ECG in the context of patient care, allowing for transfer of learning to the clinical environment.

Bedside clinicians, educators, advanced practice nurses, and physicians can benefit from the content. It could also be of benefit to anyone studying for certification examinations.

This book is easy to read; the chapters are short enough to read in one sitting while containing enough information to satisfactorily answer the question posed in the chapter title. The weakest point of this book is the size: the US letter format (8½ x 11 inches) does not allow for carrying in a lab coat pocket for easy access or reference. However, it should definitely be an addition to the reference section of anyone’s library.

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Critical Care: A New Nurse Faces Death, Life, and Everything in Between
Theresa Brown.
ISBN: 978-0-06-199775-4

Critical Care is a memoir of a second-career nurse in the first year of clinical practice. Theresa Brown spends this year as an RN on the medical oncology unit. She chronicles her emotional and physical challenges...
of that year, providing insight into the rigors of chemotherapy, the work that nurses do, and odd things that happen in the hospital.

**Group Leadership Skills for Nurses and Health Professionals, 5th edition**
ISBN: 978-086210458-8

*Group Leadership Skills* applies to a larger group than nurses, especially in this current environment that encourages interdisciplinary rounds and decision making. The skills discussed include differentiating content from process, working with tension and anxiety, and enhancing cohesiveness. The goal of the book is to enhance the effectiveness of group leaders.

**Clinical Nurse Specialist Toolkit: A Guide for the New Clinical Nurse Specialist**
ISBN: 978-082611835-6

Transitioning from bedside clinical practice to an advanced practice role can be difficult. *Clinical Nurse Specialist Toolkit* provides insight and assistance to anyone getting started as a clinical nurse specialist (CNS) as well as to CNSs who already have been in the role for a period of time. The book is divided into 6 sections, helping CNSs move forward from finding a job to developing the role for advancement and professional recognition. CCN