

KNOWLEDGE CENTRAL

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B O O K S

Shelter From the Storm: Caring for a Child With a Life-Threatening Condition. Joanne M. Hilden and Daniel R. Tobin. Cambridge, MA: Perseus Publishing, 2003, 218 pages, \$15.95.

✓  Softcover



Children with life-threatening conditions are helped the most when their parents are empowered with the information and skills necessary to be participating members of the healthcare team. Parents

need to be able to ask tough questions and be willing to talk about possibilities that no parent ever wants to consider, but they need help to accomplish these monumental tasks.

Shelter From the Storm: Caring for a Child With a Life-Threatening Condition is written for parents who are caring for children with life-threatening illnesses and contains powerful information, practical suggestions, and supportive guidance. With the help of parents who have lived through similar experiences, the authors acknowledge the sense of loss and range of emotions that parents may experience at each stage of their child's illness trajectory. The difficult decisions that parents have to make are supported by the authors' recognition of the parents as experts regarding their child. Parents are reassured that decisions made out of love for their child are the right decisions.

The information in this book is conveyed in a sensitive and hopeful manner, using language that is easy to understand. The book is

timely, given the growing interest in pediatric palliative care. Parents will appreciate the practical suggestions such as

- What questions to ask and when to ask them
- How to involve friends and family
- How to provide developmentally appropriate information to siblings
- How to involve the sick child in decision making
- What to expect at various stages of illness
- How to assign meaning to a child's life
- How to find hope in every situation
- How to create lasting and meaningful memories
- How to come to terms with the reality that their child will die
- How to find help dealing with grief and loss.

One of the strengths of this text is that its topics are organized into steps, instead of a sequencing of events, where readers can go to find information. Readers can skip a topic if it does not apply to their situation or they can peruse the information in smaller doses, depending on their needs. In addition, an index of terms is helpful in quickly locating a particular topic. Some of the topics are introduced only briefly, but the authors do include an annotated bibliography for further reading in addition to a list of information resources.

The authors promote pediatric palliative care a giant step forward with their publication. *Shelter From the Storm* should be required reading for all pediatric healthcare providers because it conveys parents' perceptions of what is helpful during these trying circumstances. The authors also model effective ways to communicate bad news. This resource is invaluable for parents who want to learn more about how to


effectively care for their gravely ill child at home or in the hospital. If parents are informed, involved, and prepared, they may derive a sense of peace from the knowledge that they have done everything possible for their child.

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Cancers of the Mouth and Throat: A Patient's Guide to Treatment. William M. Lydiatt and Perry J. Johnson. Omaha, NE: Addicus Books, 2001, 172 pages, \$14.95.

✓  Softcover






Cancers of the Mouth and Throat: A Patient's Guide to Treatment begins with a well-rounded discussion of the different types of mouth and throat cancer, signs and symptoms, staging, treatment options, and post-treatment considerations. Readers will find practical information regarding chemotherapy and radiation therapy and their side effects, as well as content about symptom and pain management and clinical trials. The text also includes resources for patients and caregivers and an excellent glossary of cancer-related terminology. The authors also address the emotional aspect of the cancer experience through poetry.



Despite its strengths, this text has some limitations. First, *Cancers of the Mouth and Throat* does not discuss the various nutritional issues that patients may experience as a result of head and neck cancer or its treatment. Second, although initially written in clear and easy-to-understand language, the tone becomes more complex such as in

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Ease of Reference and Usability

 Quick, on-the-spot resource

  Moderate time requirement

   In-depth study

Content Level

✓ Basic

✓ ✓ Intermediate

✓ ✓ ✓ Advanced and complex, prerequisite reading required

Book Size

 Pocket size

  Intermediate

   Desk reference

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a chapter about treating mouth and throat cancers by stage. In addition, many of the specifics of mouth and throat cancer are not described completely. For example, a chapter about chemotherapy provides a good overview of the steps involved in the treatment, but it does not discuss the types of drugs that may be used. Similarly, a chapter about surgery does not explain the unique features, risks, and potential complications of each mouth and throat operation; however, this information is outlined briefly in the appendix.

Overall, this text is recommended as a starting point for patients with cancers of the mouth and throat, but additional resources should be reviewed to gain a more thorough understanding of these topics.

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Pain Control: Understanding and Managing Cancer Pain (Revised Edition). American Cancer Society. Atlanta, GA: American Cancer Society, 2004, 241 pages, \$18.95.

   Softcover



Pain is one of the most feared aspects of cancer and its treatment. *Pain Control: Understanding and Managing Cancer Pain* provides comprehensive and practical information about pain and targets patients with cancer and their families. However, because of the length of the text, the discussion of each topic generally is limited; therefore, patients seeking in-depth information about a certain aspect of pain or pain treatment will need to refer to another resource.


Overall, the book is easy to read and covers a wide range of topics. The numerous tables and illustrations enhance the text and its readability. Quotations at the beginning of each chapter and scattered throughout the text are especially effective in helping patients connect with others who share similar real life experiences with cancer pain. Readers are encouraged to share their personal pain experience and the information in the book with their healthcare professionals. This strategy might be helpful in assisting patients and providers to communicate more openly about cancer pain issues and increase effective interventions. An appendix containing information about drugs frequently used for cancer pain and a list of resources are included and add to the strength of the text.

Pain Control: Understanding and Managing Cancer Pain is unique among other pain

resources in that it is simple yet comprehensive, with timely and appropriate content for all patients with cancer and their families.

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Business Concepts for Healthcare Providers: A Quick Reference for Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Physician's Assistants and Other Disruptive Innovators. Joan Slager. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett, 2004, 116 pages, \$36.95.

   Softcover



Business Concepts for Healthcare Providers: A Quick Reference for Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Physician's Assistants and Other Disruptive Innovators—the title alone speaks

of its utility. The author is a nurse midwife who understands firsthand the unique and often misunderstood role of nonphysician healthcare providers. In this brief book, key business concepts that should be addressed are identified so that healthcare professionals can attend to the matters of compensation and regulation that are important but often become barriers to practice. The book is intended for innovative healthcare providers who push beyond existing, tightly held boundaries. Although primarily directed at nurses interested in direct fee-for-service or third-party reimbursement arrangements, the book is a valuable resource for all nurse entrepreneurs.

The text begins by noting that opportunity exists in crisis, such as a shortage of providers in certain geographic locations. Once an opportunity is identified, the next step is to attend to federal, state, and local laws and regulations, as well as specific agency- or institution-governing entities such as bylaws and policies. For example, a nurse practitioner who considers joining an all-physician private practice should explore laws governing nurse practitioner practice and the bylaws, structure, and reimbursement policies of the private practice. The book describes each step of the various areas that need to be considered in addition to providing tips about getting to know the business and healthcare community, insurance issues, and legal considerations that are important to comprehend before finalizing a decision.

Once in a new innovative role, professionals can use the information in *Business Concepts for Healthcare Providers* to ensure continued success by reviewing and adhering to suggestions for maintaining identity, defining the scope and standards of practice,

benchmarking, and quality control. Billing and reimbursement are discussed, and terms are defined. The importance of professional organizations, networking, and political action is discussed. Because the text's information is not presented in detail, readers can use it to validate knowledge and identify gaps. The text's suggested reading list gives readers a place to begin finding information to fill these gaps.

The book does not include specific information for nurses who are interested in starting "idea" businesses such as consulting or education that are not oriented toward direct care, nor does it include information for entrepreneurs who are product inventors. For example, a clinical nurse specialist who is interested in patenting a new product would find some of the general business and reimbursement information helpful but would need additional content that is not contained in this book. However, as a pocket consultant, this is a valuable resource that every "disruptive innovator" will find helpful. The author defines a disruptive innovator as anyone with an innovation that disrupts the status quo. If that describes you, get *Business Concepts for Healthcare Providers*.

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Worth a Look

Pivotal Moments in Nursing: Leaders Who Changed the Path of a Profession. Beth P. Houser and Kathy N. Player. Indianapolis, IN: Sigma Theta Tau International, 2004, 304 pages, \$29.95.

Synonymous with healing and caregiving, nurses typically are regarded as part of the hospital background rather than as professionals in the limelight drawing attention to themselves and their accomplishments. Perhaps this thinking is what makes *Pivotal Moments in Nursing: Leaders Who Changed the Path of a Profession* unique. Published by Sigma Theta Tau International, *Pivotal Moments in Nursing* profiles a dozen modern-day nursing leaders and thinkers. In researching the volume, the authors found a progressive and diverse group of women and men willing to seize a professional opportunity and take a calculated risk.


"What these nurses have in common is compelling, and we are privileged to be able to tell their stories," said Jeff Brunham, publisher for Sigma Theta Tau International.

Honor society officials believe that the volume will find its way into nursing school curricula. "Not only do these stories provoke discussion about the evolving role of nurses, the volume is an important read for students interested in nursing leadership and trends,"

says Linda Finke, RN, PhD, professional development director of Sigma Theta Tau International. "Although each of the nurses profiled is different in terms of background, motivators, and goals, each nurse's vision is unique and each nurse's professional focus is acute."

This book profiles the professionals who have left their imprint on current nursing, from

Loretta Ford, who was the driving force in the nurse practitioner movement, to Shirley Sears Chater, the first nurse commissioner of the Social Security Administration. The authors target those moments in a leader's life that will result in change for the profession and the personal joy and professional angst that frequently accompany those moments. Nurses

profiled range from those for whom caregiving was always their goal to those who seemed to happen into the profession, from those who immediately sought advanced degrees to those who went through a hospital diploma program, and from those who had an immediate vision to those whose contributions evolved throughout their career. _____ 

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Reviewers are valued volunteers who contribute their professional knowledge and clinical expertise to the *Oncology Nursing Forum* and are credited for their reviews. Reviewers are allowed to keep the media once reviews are completed.

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