

# KNOWLEDGE CENTRAL

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## B O O K S

**The Guide to Community Preventive Services: What Works to Promote Health?** *Task Force on Community Preventive Services. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005, 542 pages, \$35 (softcover), \$65 (hardcover).*

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The purpose of this well-written guide is to offer healthcare providers a resource to aid in selecting interventions to improve health and prevent disease at community, local, and state levels or within an organization or agency. Although the intended audience is healthcare providers working in the community, *The Guide to Community Preventive Services: What Works to Promote Health?* is useful for any provider, researcher, or educator involved in program planning, intervention research, or community outreach. This text is designed as a companion to the *Guide to Clinical Preventive Services*, which focuses on interventions for the individual patient or client. In tandem, the two guides provide information on a range of services for individuals and populations.

The interventions are divided into two sections: (a) changing risk behaviors and addressing environmental challenges and (b) reducing disease, injury, and impairment. Interventions are categorized further according to those that are recommended based on a systematic review of existing research studying the particular problem and those that have been studied but lack sufficient evidence to support their use. The table of contents is organized according to individual diseases or risk behaviors, and each chapter is presented in a similar format. Although one

chapter is devoted to cancer interventions, the discussion is limited to preventing skin cancer by reducing exposure to ultraviolet radiation and promoting informed decision making for cancer screening. This may be a limitation for oncology nurses working in other cancer-related areas.

Other chapters may be beneficial to oncology nurses, particularly those working in the areas of disease prevention and health promotion. For example, a chapter about tobacco focuses on reducing initiation, increasing cessation, and decreasing exposure to environmental tobacco smoke. A chapter dedicated to the social environment includes an examination of culturally competent health care, which is relevant for all oncology nurses regardless of practice setting.

In addition to the text itself, several other products provide a systematic review of findings, recommendations, and various types of information in different formats. For example, the Web site [www.thecommunityguide.org](http://www.thecommunityguide.org) presents the most up-to-date and comprehensive collection of the guide's information. *The Guide to Community Preventive Services* is a unique contribution to the field of evidence-based practice, providing oncology nurses with the most current community interventions that can be coordinated with individual interventions in the clinical guide. These additional resources are especially valuable for oncology nurses planning intervention research, evaluating programs, or individualizing patient care based on the most current evidence-based research.

Along with the clinical guide, *The Guide to Community Preventive Services* is a worthwhile investment for nurses, healthcare organizations, and academic institutions.

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**Making a Difference: Stories From the Point of Care, Volume II.** *Sharon Hudacek. Indianapolis, IN: Sigma Theta Tau International, 2004, 325 pages, \$29.95.*

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Through storytelling, nursing comes alive in this second volume in the series by Sharon Hudacek, RN, EdD. *Making a Difference: Stories From the Point of Care* has more than 100 new stories by and about nurses from around the world. Published by Sigma Theta Tau International, *Making a Difference* defines the art and science of nursing within exemplars. The book's eight chapters are delineated by different aspects of nursing care. Each story reveals fantastic accounts of nursing skill, devotion, and respect. For example, in the chapter titled "Caring: The Essence of Nursing," stories reflect the authentic relationships between nurses, patients, and families.

The author provides an introduction for each chapter and a summary after many stories. This collection of stories gives nurses a voice and documents their often undervalued and overlooked work. The book is appropriate for several audiences, including graduate nurses and those who are thinking of pursuing nursing. In addition, *Making a Difference* is ideal for seasoned nurses and the general public. The text can be used in nursing curriculum for analysis of nursing within the context of ethics, a nurse's role, and critical thinking. Although the book is easy to read, some formatting issues may be distracting to readers.

Hudacek has written other books, such as *A Daybook for Nurses: Making a Difference Each Day* and *Making a Difference: Stories From the Point of Care, Volume I*. All profits from the sale of this series go to the Making a Difference Foundation, which funds nursing scholarships for licensed practical nursing students returning for a baccalaureate degree in nursing at the University of Pennsylvania in Scranton.

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Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/05.ONF.1059-1060

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🕒🕒 Moderate time requirement	✓ ✓ Intermediate	🧑🧑🧑 Intermediate
🕒🕒🕒 In-depth study	✓ ✓ ✓ Advanced and complex, prerequisite reading required	🧑🧑🧑🧑 Desk reference