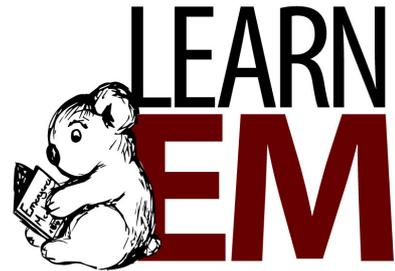


Preface

ABCDs of Emergency Medicine : Eighth Edition : 2017

The first edition of ABCDs was written in 1997/98 in response to requests from medical and nursing staff for an easily readable, concise and practically based textbook on emergency medical practice. Many of the standard texts at the time were perceived as either too long and detailed or written in a format ideal as a reference but difficult to read. The aim was to produce a text that sifts through the extensive body of medical knowledge to provide clinicians with the core concepts and foundations for managing a wide range of emergency presentations in a variety of clinical settings.



With 101 chapters and more than 50 clinical guidelines the book has grown over the past 20 years to become a learning resource for those training in acute care and a clinical tool that assists with the delivery of bedside care to the acutely ill or injured. The eighth edition incorporates the recent developments in acute care over the past 4 years and features 16 new chapters including bedside emergency ultrasound, management of critical bleeding, preparation of the critically ill patient for transfer or retrieval, emergency disaster management, paediatric closed head injury, geriatric emergencies, low risk chest pain pathways, ENT emergencies, hypothermia and drowning.

A major focus of the revision process has been to increase the usefulness of the book at the bedside and provide immediate access to information that assists with the management of the critically ill patient. The book is available for the first time as an eBook and a special section has been created (at the end of the book) providing access to clinical tools and drug information required in the management of critically ill adults and children.

The book is designed as an aid to learning and continuing professional development in emergency medicine. Each chapter provides a succinct, easily readable overview that aims to provide all the critical information required to understand a topic and able to be read in the time it takes to drink a cup of coffee. We imagine readers pausing for a moment (perhaps after a shift or on a day off) to read a chapter or two related a recent case they have encountered. This reflective approach to learning is often extremely effective and provides an almost effortless way of growing clinical knowledge by linking the information discussed in the chapter to the individual experience.

As medicine is best appreciated (and in truth best learned) through clinical cases that challenge us to think and problem solve the book provides this opportunity using the *LearnEM Website* (www.learnem.com.au). The website is designed to bridge the gap between the written text and clinical practice. The eLearning modules allow readers to explore an emergency topic through interactive clinical cases, eTutorials, procedural videos, discussion of recent research, interpretation of laboratory tests, imaging and ECGs and to self-test their understanding of a topic through graded quizzes. There are now over 30 courses on the LearnEM website covering everything from resuscitation through to emergency obstetrics through to eye emergencies through to ECG interpretation. New courses in major trauma, ENT, toxicology, critical care medicine and wound management will be added over the coming 12 months. In this edition, we have divided the book into 10 sections and suggested some of the courses on the website that may be useful for a specific topic. It is our hope that readers will find these courses provide a useful learning tool for their continued medical education.

Many areas of emergency medicine lack a single approach to care and often depend on the (local) resources available to the clinician. The ABCDs of Emergency Medicine began as an attempt to provide a practical approach to clinical care that considers this variation in resources and skills. It is our hope that this new edition continues to fulfil this role, fosters a deeper understanding of emergency care among health professionals and assists them with their work with the acutely ill or injured.

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