



BOOK REVIEW

Monitoring the Critically Ill Patient, 2nd ed., P. Jevon, B. Ewens, J.S. Pooni. Blackwell Publishing, Oxford (2007). ISBN: 9781405144407, pbk, £17.99

This is the 2nd edition of this very useful clinical skills handbook. This compact and easily navigated text provides the reader with the principles of monitoring the critically ill patient with complex needs from the initial recognition of the patients' deteriorating condition through the stabilisation and management of the patient.

The well-constructed chapters provide the reader with the context of the approach to patient monitoring being explored. The combination of clear learning objectives for each chapter with easily read and understood key aspects and best practice principles for individual monitoring techniques, facilitates progressive learning about these interventions. The inclusion of reflective learning scenarios in some chapters is also very useful in directing the reader to contextualise the new knowledge applying this to their practice. Chapters explaining the role of different courses related the assessment and stabilisation of the critically ill patient together with the role of the emergency medical teams, critical care outreach teams

and early warning scoring systems are also very helpful in clarifying the operational context within which the monitoring techniques explored are applied in practice.

This text is a welcome addition to the reading list for undergraduate students undertaking a complex needs module in their programme as preparation for a placement in the Emergency Department, High Dependency or Critical Care areas. Equally this compact handbook would be a very appropriate for the newly qualified practitioner undertaking their initial development programme within these settings as the text not only provides an overview of the principles of monitoring in the critically ill patient, but additionally, the well researched and referenced chapters provide opportunities for advanced understanding of these techniques.

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