

High-Acuity Nursing

Seventh Edition

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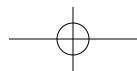
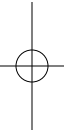
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Preface

When the first edition of *High-Acuity Nursing* was published in 1992, the term *high acuity* was largely confined to leveling patient acuity for determining hospital staffing needs rather than being applied to a type of nursing care or education. Since that time, the meaning of the term has been evolving to increasingly represent a distinct category of nursing that denotes care of complex patients outside of the critical care setting. For the purposes of this textbook, we continue to define *high acuity* in a way that is consistent with our original intent—that it represents a level of patient problems beyond uncomplicated acute illness on a health–illness continuum.

The high-acuity nurse cares for complex patients with unpredictable outcomes across care settings (to include critical care). Today, high-acuity patients are found in many healthcare settings, from high-skill, long-term-care facilities to critical care units. The patient population is older and faces an increased number of health issues upon entering the healthcare system. Hospitalized patients are being discharged earlier, often in a poorer state of health. In the home health setting, nurses provide care to patients with mechanical ventilators, central venous catheter lines, IV antibiotic therapy, and complicated injuries. Whereas critical care units are considered specialty areas within the hospital walls, much of the knowledge required to work within those specialties is generalist in nature. It is this generalist knowledge base that is needed by all nurses who work with patients experiencing complex care problems to ensure competent and safe nursing practice.

New to This Edition

The seventh edition of the book has been revised based on feedback from faculty and students.

- All chapters have been updated, and many have been reorganized and expanded.
- A new chapter focusing on palliative care and end-of-life issues has been added.
- New features that address Quality and Safety and Genetic Considerations have been added where appropriate.
- Posttest items have been revised to reflect changes in content and are written using NCLEX style.
- Emerging Evidence features have been updated.

Purpose of the Text

The *High-Acuity Nursing* text delivers critical information focusing on the adult patient, using learner-focused, active learning principles, with concise language and a user-friendly format. The book's design breaks down complex information into small, discrete chunks to assist learners in mastering the material. Self-testing is provided throughout the text, with short section quizzes and chapter post-tests. All answers to the section review quizzes are provided to give learners immediate feedback on their command of section content before proceeding to the next chapter section.

The chapters in this book focus on the relationship between pathophysiology and the nursing process with the following goals in mind:

- To revisit and translate critical pathophysiological concepts pertaining to the high-acuity adult patient in a clinically applicable manner
- To examine the interrelationships among physiological concepts
- To enhance clinical decision-making skills
- To provide immediate feedback to the learner regarding assimilation of concepts and principles
- To provide self-paced learning

Ultimately, the goal is for the learner to be able to approach patient care conceptually, so that care is provided with a strong underlying understanding of its rationale.

This book is appropriate for use in multiple educational settings, including for undergraduate nursing students, novice nurses, novice critical care nurses, and home health nurses. It also serves as a review book for the experienced nurse wanting updated information about high-acuity nursing for continuing education purposes. Hospital staff development departments will find it useful as supplemental or required reading for nursing staff or for high-acuity or critical care classes.

Organization of the Text

The book is divided into ten parts: Introduction to High-Acuity Nursing, Therapeutic Support of the High-Acuity Patient, Pulmonary, Cardiovascular, Neurologic, Gastrointestinal, Fluid and Electrolytes, Hematologic, Nutrition and Metabolism, and Multisystem Dysfunction.

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Part One: Introduction to High-Acuity Nursing is composed of four introductory chapters with topics that apply across high-acuity problems, including an introduction to high-acuity nursing and the care of high-acuity patients, and important considerations when caring for the high-acuity older adult. Part Two: Therapeutic Support of the High-Acuity Patient is composed of six chapters that focus on supportive interventions, including pain management, nutrition support, mechanical ventilation, hemodynamic monitoring, basic cardiac rhythm monitoring, and complex wound management. Parts Three through Ten cover topics that represent the more common complex health problems, assessments, and treatments associated with high-acuity adult patients.

All chapters contain Learning Outcomes, Section Review questions, and Chapter Review questions. Most chapters include Clinical Reasoning Checkpoint exercises. Each chapter is divided into small sections that cover one facet of the chapter's topic (e.g., pathophysiology or nursing management), and each section ends with a short self-assessment review quiz. Key words are bolded throughout the chapters to indicate glossary terms defined in the textbook's Glossary. Parts Three through Ten are composed of two different types of chapters: *Determinants and Assessment* chapters and *Alterations* chapters.

DETERMINANTS AND ASSESSMENT CHAPTERS Each part begins with an overview of normal concepts that provide a solid foundation for understanding the diseases being presented. Normal anatomy and physiology are reviewed, and relevant diagnostic tests and assessments are profiled. The therapeutic support and disease-focused (*Alterations*) chapters draw heavily on the normal concepts, diagnostic tests, and assessments covered in their corresponding *Determinants and Assessment* chapters.

ALTERATIONS CHAPTERS Following each *Determinants and Assessment* chapter is a series of organ- or concept-specific chapters that focus on a single topic area. The majority of *Alterations* chapters are based on body systems (e.g., Chapter 12, *Alterations in Pulmonary Function*) and include the pathophysiology, assessments, diagnostic testing, and collaborative management of disorders commonly seen in high-acuity adult patients. Several *Alterations* chapters focus on complications of high-acuity illness, such as multiple organ dysfunction syndrome and sensory motor complications of acute illness. The pathophysiologic basis of disease is emphasized in this textbook, based on the belief that strong foundational knowledge about the basis of disease improves learner understanding of the associated disease manifestations and rationales for treatment.

Summary

This text focuses on major problems and therapies frequently encountered in high-acuity patients. It is not designed as a comprehensive textbook of adult medical-surgical or critical care nursing. The book's format reduces the learner's sense of being overwhelmed by complex information. Learners are more apt to feel in command of the concepts, giving them the confidence to proceed to more complex concepts.

The seventh edition of *High-Acuity Nursing* has maintained the overall look and feel of the previous editions, with some valuable changes. Although the seventh edition has been updated and is offered in eText format as well as print, we have not compromised our interactive approach. The ultimate goal of this book continues to be to enhance the preparation of nurses for practice in today's healthcare settings.

Acknowledgments

With any publication, several years of sweat and tears go into its development. To our Executive Portfolio Manager, Pam Fuller, and our Development Editor, Pam Lappies, thank you so much for your patience, diligence, sense of humor, and work ethic—the book would have never made it to fruition without your hard work and guidance. It has been a true pleasure to work with you! To our Content Producer, Bianca Sepulveda, our Portfolio Management Assistant, Erin Sullivan, and our Project Manager at Aptara, Sudip Sinha, thank you all for your efforts and hard work. We would also like to warmly acknowledge the wonderful work of our Accuracy Reviewer, Dr. Rachel Kinder, PhD, RN, whose meticulous scrutiny of the information in the book chapters made our work much easier and significantly enhanced the quality and accuracy of the book. Warm thanks goes to Dr. Kathy Wagner for her mentorship and unwavering support in this “book business” and for inviting Darlene and Melanie to be part of *High-Acuity Nursing*.

Finally, our warm thanks also to our Chapter Review item writer, Pamela Fowler, who significantly added to the value of the tests.

In memory of a colleague, mentor, and friend, Pam Kidd, RN, PhD, ARNP, CEN, who died too soon and with Kathy coedited *High-Acuity Nursing* from its inception, we say her passion for teaching, warmth, and wit are deeply missed.

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