
Clinical Manual of Emergency Pediatrics

Review by Patrick B. Solari, MD

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Clinical Manual of Emergency Pediatrics*Gershel JC, Crain EF**Cambridge University Press, 2018**854 pages, \$79.39**ISBN-13: 978-1316648636**ISBN-10: 131664863X*

Caring for children in the acute care setting can at times be both rewarding and stressful. Increasingly, pediatric patients are being cared for in community emergency departments (EDs), freestanding EDs, and urgent care facilities. Clinicians practicing in these settings often practice solo, treating pediatric patients infrequently, and without the benefit of a colleague down the hall or easy access to a consultant in-house. Even clinicians at specialty pediatric emergency centers may encounter complaints that they observe infrequently. The *Clinical Manual of Emergency Pediatrics* is an excellent reference for physicians and advanced practice providers, providing a clinically focused text that is easy to navigate and provides concise, direct answers with an emphasis on patient management.

One of the best features of the book is the clear organization. Each topic proceeds through 4 simple categories: clinical presentation, diagnosis, ED management, and indications for admission. The clinical presentations are well written in a tight narrative, providing a quick description of each illness. The diagnosis section goes through the common evaluation for each clinical presentation. The ED management section lays out a framework for the treatment of various conditions and includes discussion of when specialist consultation is recommended. The indications for admission are presented

in list form, providing a handy reference for recommended disposition. The overall feel of the book is that it will perform at its best when serving as a quick refresher during a pediatric patient visit.

Another positive feature of the book is the accessibility of information. The frequent use of tables makes it easy to quickly review a topic and find the information one needs. Even though it covers a broad range of subjects, the authors provide significant depth on topics such as dehydration and fluid management. However, some areas, such as dermatology, are limited by the lack of pictures and diagrams. It is understandable why the authors did not include many pictures: to keep the book as concise as possible. Certainly, there are atlases and other resources available that would cover similar material, but having a picture to accompany the description of a rash is helpful at the bedside.

Part of the joy of practicing pediatric emergency medicine is the feeling of being ready for anything, no matter what is encountered. It is even more joyful when one can quickly access current information on a chief complaint one has possibly not seen in years. I recommend the *Clinical Manual of Emergency Pediatrics* for anyone who treats pediatric patients in the acute care setting. It will broaden the differential diagnoses, save a few telephone calls, and help one quickly make decisions about work treatment and disposition of patients.

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