
The Ultimate Emergency Medicine Guide: The Only EM Book You Need to Succeed

Review by Jason D. Heiner, MD

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The Ultimate Emergency Medicine Guide: The Only EM Book You Need to Succeed*Khan S**CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2014**372 pages, \$79-\$199**ISBN-13: 978-1-50581-686-0**ISBN-10: 1-50581-686-6*

Within the preface of *The Ultimate Emergency Medicine Guide: The Only EM Book You Need to Succeed*, the reader is welcomed by the statement “[I]f you read this book you are guaranteed to pass your written boards and re-certification exam.” This book, by Sajid Khan, MD, comes with a “passing score guarantee” whereby if the reader purchases the text and achieves less than passing results on the American Board of Emergency Medicine qualifying or ConCert examination, he or she “will receive 500% of [the] original purchase price back.” The delivery of this book’s confident goal is attempted in 374 pages, with ample illustrations, splashes of colored figures, and a bit of humor. *The Ultimate Emergency Medicine Guide* is organized in a common system and specialty topic manner, with 18 sections such as orthopedics, cardiology, and toxicology. High-yield content is discussed in a focused and generally bulleted manner. Key learning points are reinforced by multiple-choice questions with explanations after the content and by short comments and callouts that are peppered throughout the book and seem to serve a variety of purposes. At times, these additional one-liners and short paragraphs ask the reader an open-ended question followed by a short explanation. At other times, they present a brief clinical vignette and high-yield teaching elements, or otherwise serve

to summarize key points or nuances. These frequent additional comments, intermittent text highlighting, occasional humor, and some varying formatting of the sections and styles of illustrations create a bit of an informal feel to this guide. This quality is welcomed and adds balance and levity to the breadth of content covered, offering welcomed entertainment and distraction for the reader who might find this motivating when studying.

The strength of this book is its focus on abbreviating material for the tests at hand in bite-sized pieces that are often entertaining and with some sort of associated illustrations. Readers desiring a text for more general clinical use and reference may be disappointed that this book cannot always be extended that far. The illustrations are not always of an optimal quality and the content may be somewhat truncated when the goals of examination preparation have been met. However, it is impressive how often salient clinical details or comments beyond the examination are inserted in the text. *The Ultimate Emergency Medicine Guide* would likely be a refreshing component in one’s emergency medicine examination study plan. Other clinicians not yet diving into the task of test preparation may also enjoy this book as an entertaining way to complement their clinical knowledge and everyday practice.

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