

## Acute Care Handbook for Physical Therapists. (Fourth Edition)

Jaime C. Paz, Michele P. West. Elsevier Saunders. 2014; 3251 Riverport Lane, St. Louis, Missouri 63043; ISBN: 978-1-4557-2896-1; Soft cover; 528 pages; RRP: AUD 99.95

Acute Care Handbook for Physical Therapists summarizes the evidence for the usefulness of physiotherapy techniques, and their application in acute care settings. The new edition successfully fulfils its aim of updating physiotherapists and clinicians with the recent advancements in acute care settings. The up-to-date information about the medication use, laboratory tests, diagnosis, intervention methods and standardized outcome measures related to patient care within acute care further enhances existing knowledge for students and practitioners working in physiotherapy. The book is divided into four main parts: 1) Introduction; 2) Body systems; 3) Diagnosis; and 4) Interventions.

Part 1 outlines the features of the acute care setting describing the importance and documentation standards for maintaining medical records. Part 2 provides detailed information on the clinical evaluations of the different body systems. Part 3 illustrates the diagnostic procedures following the medical-surgical evaluations. The chapter on wounds and burns care within this section is a topic of key interest for persons working in burns units. The importance of early examination in the identification of key prognostic factors is very well emphasised in the treatment of early complications and prevention of major complications. Part 4 describes commonly administered medical and paramedical interventions in an acute care unit and provides a sound knowledge regarding the mechanism of action and adverse effects of commonly used medications. A brief knowledge of the special considerations to be taken before proceeding with physical therapy sessions may further help the therapist in recording the safety of the patient. All chapters are well categorised providing an overview of the structure and function of body systems, followed by an overview of the medical-surgical evaluation, informed by the guidelines for basic and specialized physiotherapy examinations and interventions.

For me the important take-home message is the importance of team work by all health professionals in the acute care setting within the rehabilitation team and working alongside family members, and relatives of the patient. A proper understanding of each other's role and clear communication about the condition of the patient between team members is essential in optimising patient care. Further, the use of appropriate examples to formulate the background for each chapter, the evidence based information; the use of the intervention algorithms, tables, boxes and clinical tips further enhances the book's messages. The absence of coloured photographs at times can make the reading monotonous; the use of coloured figures, web links, or a Compact Disk (CD) for practical interactive sessions could further enhance future editions.

Overall, this new edition is a fantastic resource which will help students, clinicians, and physiotherapists to carry out effective evaluation and treatment in an acute care setting, and is highly recommended.

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