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978-0-521-68247-3 - Handbook of ICU Therapy, Second Edition
Edited by Ian McConachie
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Handbook of ICU Therapy

Second Edition

This new, expanded and thoroughly updated edition of *Handbook of ICU Therapy* builds on the success of the first edition and continues to provide concise information on a broad spectrum of issues relating to care of the critically ill patient. There are also several new, topical chapters. As with the first edition, it is equally applicable to anaesthetists, intensivists, operating department practitioners and anaesthetic/theatre/recovery nurses, and the heart of the book focuses on providing practical information in a readable and easily accessible format. All of the authors are directly involved in intensive care unit (ICU) practice and/or research and are familiar with the most recent developments in this fast-moving area of medicine.

Ian McConachie has been a consultant in anaesthesia and intensive care for over 15 years. Prior to this, he lectured extensively in anaesthesia and he is now a primary examiner for the Royal College of Anaesthetists.

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Preface

This text:

- Is aimed primarily at trainees working in intensive care. Hopefully will appeal to multidisciplinary trainees being exposed to ICU for the first time under joint college guidelines for ICU training. May also be of interest to ICU nurses looking for information on modern medical (in the strictest sense) approaches to ICU therapy. A basic knowledge of physiology and pharmacology is assumed as well as either a medical background or advanced nursing experience in intensive care.
- May also be a useful "aide memoire" for ICU examinations especially for the FRCA and diplomas in intensive care.
- The First Edition arose out of a series of ICU study days organised by the editor in the North West region since 1992. Many of the authors have been lecturers on these courses.
- The authors are all either experienced ICU practitioners or invited experts on specialist issues. Being involved in ICU research was not a prerequisite although many of the authors have been or are involved in ICU research – a clinical commitment at the bedside was thought to be more important for this text.
- Aims to provide practical information on the management of common and/or important problems in the critically ill patient as well as sufficient background information to enable understanding of the principles and rationale behind their therapy. We hope it will prove useful at the bedside but we would like to emphasise that this, or any other book, is no substitute for experienced supervision, support and training.
- Throughout, the importance of cardiac function is emphasised.
- Does not aim to cover all of ICU practice and is not a substitute to the major ICU reference textbooks. For example, practical aspects of monitoring techniques are not covered (best learnt at the bedside) but, however, the philosophy of

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monitoring is covered where necessary to illustrate important management points. Similarly, pathophysiology is included to help understand management principles.

- The Second Edition contains several new chapters on topical aspects of ICU therapy as well as revisions of older chapters – many have been completely rewritten.
- The format is designed to provide easy access to information presented in a concise manner. We have tried to eliminate all superfluous material. Selected important or controversial references are presented as well as suggestions for further reading.

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