

# Urban Emergency Medicine

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Contents

*List of Contributors* vi  
*Preface* ix

1	<b>Caring for the Homeless</b> 1	9	<b>Physician/Patient Discordance</b> 110
	Maria Raven, Hemal Kanzaria, and Jaskaran (Karan) Bains		Tammy Jupic, Laura Smylie, and Elizabeth Dubey
2	<b>Disruptive and Dangerous Agitation</b> 13	10	<b>LGBTQIA+ Care</b> 123
	Reuben J. Strayer		Nicholas Avitabile
3	<b>Penetrating Trauma</b> 26	11	<b>Child Maltreatment</b> 133
	Alejandro A. Palma, Doreen Agboh, and Devon Fiorino		Nisha Narayanan and Dana Lauture
4	<b>Substance Use</b> 39	12	<b>Care of Vulnerable Elders</b> 148
	David A. Leon, Arvin K. Jundoria, and Andrew Stolbach		Surriya Ahmad, Michael Stern, and Tony Rosen
5	<b>Human Trafficking</b> 56	13	<b>Civil Unrest: Caring for Police and Protesters</b> 161
	Inkyu Kim and Hanni Stoklosa		Scott A. Goldberg and Stephen G. DeVries
6	<b>Travelers from Overseas</b> 67	14	<b>Terrorism and Mass Casualty Incidents</b> 173
	Arha Cho, Erena Weathers, and Geoffrey W. Jara-Almonte		Gregory R. Ciottone and Derrick Tin
7	<b>HIV, AIDS, and Tuberculosis</b> 87	15	<b>Overcrowding, Triage, and Care Rationing</b> 184
	Marc Phillip Kanter, Trevor Mark Janus, and Marimer Rivera-Nieves		Samita M. Heslin and Peter Viccellio
8	<b>Asthma</b> 98		
	Claudia Sofia Simich and Michael P. Jones		
			<i>Index</i> 191

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## Preface

There is a mystique surrounding urban Emergency Medicine (EM). Medical students, physician assistants, EM residents, and attending emergency physicians all view “the big city” as a distinct practice environment – fast-paced, hard-edged, and unforgiving. The goal of *Urban Emergency Medicine* is to provide an expert-driven and clinically focused handbook for EM practitioners of all levels wishing to attain or improve upon their knowledge of how to work in an urban setting.

Urbanism involves large numbers of people concentrated in space, and those people inevitably are heterogeneous in terms of culture, language, economic status, and nearly every other variable that can differentiate persons and peoples. This amalgam comprising the human makeup of cities is fluid with mobility and transiency. The result is the concentration of certain social and physiological disease states, as well as the genesis and propagation of some uniquely urban challenges to health and healthcare delivery.

The mandate of EM specialist is to develop and maintain competence in the diagnosis and treatment of the acute phase of the entire gamut of illness and injury. The clichéd but undeniable truth is that the emergency physician must be ready for anything, and is therefore perpetually refreshing and renewing knowledge of rarely seen conditions, while honing and improving knowledge of common ones. Unarguably, this practice setting makes some things more common than others. *Urban Emergency Medicine* aims to unify the diseases, injuries, and practice barriers that are particular to the urban setting and to provide context, exposition, and tips for best practice from a group of authors who have spent their careers developing expertise in urban emergency medicine.

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