

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-64190-7 - Handbook of ICU Therapy: Third edition
John Fuller, Jeff Granton and Ian McConachie
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Third edition

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Preface to the third edition

- This text is aimed primarily at trainees working in intensive care – especially multidisciplinary trainees being exposed to the intensive care unit (ICU) for the first time. It 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.
- It may also be a useful “aide memoire” for specialist ICU examinations.
- The editors have enlisted a multinational team of contributors active in both practice and training from institutions on both sides of the Atlantic and beyond. The aim has therefore been to produce a text of international relevance.
- The authors are all either experienced ICU practitioners or invited experts on specialist issues. Being involved in ICU research was not a pre-requisite although many of the authors have been or are involved in ICU research.
- 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 emphasize that this, or any other book, is no substitute for experienced supervision, support and training.
- Throughout, the importance of cardiac function is emphasized.
- This text 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 the philosophy of monitoring is covered where necessary to illustrate important management points. Similarly, pathophysiology is included to help understand management principles.
- The third 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.