

A Practical Guide to Pharmaceutical Care.

J.P. Rovers, J.D. Currie, H.P. Hagel, R.P. McDonough, J.L. Sobotka. American Pharmaceutical Association, Washington, DC, 1998. US\$40.00. 242 pages, softcover.

This is not just another book on how to practise pharmaceutical care. Instead, it is an easy-to-read, practical, well-written, step-by-step approach to practising pharmaceutical care. More importantly, it is written with the enthusiasm often missing from these how-to books. Pharmaceutical care is no longer simply a passing phase, but rather a necessity if the pharmacy profession is to survive. This book is written for community pharmacists, but hospital pharmacists, ambulatory pharmacists, and students can also benefit from the authors' insightful approach and discussions on the barriers to providing pharmaceutical care.

The book is well referenced and often provides a perspective of what traditional pharmacy practice entails and how this differs from pharmaceutical care. It contains useful tips and information along with patient case studies and examples of documentation and forms such as data collection sheets and forms authorizing release of medical information.

It provides concrete information on how to develop practical skills. The chapter on patient data evaluation contains a complete discussion on the identification of drug-related problems and is written in a consistent, organized, and logical fashion. It makes a couple of very necessary clarifications that I find undergraduate students and hospital pharmacy residents have particular difficulty putting into practice: (i) the distinction between medical problems and drug therapy problems and (ii) the concept of actual or potential drug problems.

The book is directed towards community pharmacy practice. Its chapters on staffing modification, pharmacy

layout, marketing, and reimbursement strategies may be of less value to the hospital practitioner, but for hospital practitioners still struggling with the why and how of pharmaceutical care in their setting this book's review of practical tips, ideas, and forms is invaluable.

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Books Received

Geriatric Pharmacology. R. Bressler and M.D. Katz, editors. McGraw-Hill, Inc., New York, 1993. ISBN 0-07-007660-X. \$55.00. 500 pages, softcover.

Pediatric Dosage Handbook. C.K. Taketomo, J.H. Hodding, D.K. Kraus. Lexi-Comp, Hudson, 1999. ISBN 0-916589-74-9. \$37.95. 1165 pages, softcover.

Your Drug May be Your Problem. How and Why to Stop Taking Psychiatric Medications. Harper Collins, New York, 1999. ISBN 0-7382-0184-7. \$35.00 13 chapters, 272 pages, hardcover.

Manual of Travel Medicine. R. Steffen and H.L. Dupont. B.C. Decker, Hamilton, 1999. ISBN 1-55009-078-X. US\$28.95. 4 parts, 515 pages, softcover.

Pharmacotherapy Casebook, 2nd edition. T.L. Schwinghammer. Appleton & Lange, Stamford, 2000. ISBN 0-8385-8154-4. \$35.95. 131 chapters, softcover.

