

BOOK REVIEWS

Guidelines for Administration of Intravenous Medications to Pediatric Patients, fifth edition. Phelps SJ and Hak EB, editors. American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Bethesda, Maryland, 1996. Softcover, 188 pages. US\$52.50.

The fifth edition of this handbook, affectionately referred to as the “Teddy Bear” book, represents a significant expansion of the 1993 edition. The book comprises 145 monographs prepared by 22 authors and 42 reviewers, all leaders in the field of pediatric clinical pharmacy.

Each monograph appears on its own page. The monographs are consistent in format, so that after using the book a few times, the reader knows exactly what type of information to expect. The book is arranged alphabetically by generic name, and brand names are also listed. Other information given for each drug includes maximum dosage, concentration for administration, maximum concentration, IV push rate, duration over which an intermittent infusion should be run, rate for continuous infusion, cautions, and comments. One strength of this book is that almost every fact is referenced — the reference list has 1848 items. The appendices include nomograms for determining body surface area and for estimating ideal body mass in children.

This text would be a valuable addition to the pharmacy department of any hospital offering pediatric care. The monographs are clear, straightforward, and concise. The information they contain is highly specific to pediatrics and is often not readily available anywhere else. The text, however, would best be used in conjunction with other specialized references (such as *Handbook on Injectable Drugs*, by L.A. Trissel, and *Pediatric Dosage Handbook*, by C.K. Takemoto, J.H. Hodding, and D.M. Kraus), as well as the relevant product monograph.

Work on the sixth edition has now begun, and the new edition promises to be a significant expansion of the current edition.

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