

hensively reviews what are believed to be the biological alterations of the major psychiatric disorders.

Finally, the fourth section, Psychopharmacological Treatment discusses the treatment of specific disorders such as major depression, bipolar disorders, schizophrenia, anxiety disorders and eating disorders. It serves as a guide offering the steps that are necessary for prescribing a drug.

In addition, the most frequently asked questions by clinicians are answered: why should a drug be used for a specific disorder? If so, what class of drugs? In what doses? For how long? What to do when there are complications such as side effects of lack of response? How to approach the treatment-refractory patient? How to combine drugs in patients who are having a partial or no response? This final section skillfully links all of the previous ones.

There are also chapters devoted to the assessment and treatment of special populations throughout the lifespan: childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age as well as pregnancy, aggressive disorders, personality disorders, psychiatric emergencies, and the medically ill. Unlike other textbooks that cover the special populations only superficially, ample space is given to them. The chapter on the treatment of aggressive disorders reviews the differential diagnoses, as well as how to document aggressive behaviour. The authors describe how to diagnose, monitor and manage this type of patient. The chapter "Treatment of psychiatric emergencies" provides information on voluntary or involuntary admission, how to notify third parties, management of agitation, and the patient who abuses psychoactive substances.

The chapter "Psychopharmacology during pregnancy and lactation" is especially important for patient care. There are five very useful tables in this chapter, each deals with a drug group and lists the risk category (A-D, X) associated with taking this medication based on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration use in pregnancy ratings.

The bibliographies are extensive and up to date, and the textbook is well indexed. It is very detailed and, at the same time, practical and well-organized. In summary, this excellent textbook achieves the purpose outlined by the authors is highly recommended to clinicians.



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REVIEWED BY BARBARA P. ORDWAY
Assistant Editor, Copy, Nature Medicine

Stedman's Plus, Version 3.0, is an electronic spell-checking package based on medical vocabulary and drug names as well as ordinary American English spelling. The author or editor who frequently employs medical terminology will find this software useful with WordPerfect, Microsoft Word or AmiPro. The publisher states that it contains 300,000 words and has been updated to include additional words from several specialties.

Word recognition and search capabilities are keys to successful spell-checking software. One that recognizes 'metallothionein' and 'Boehringer' is certainly a time-saver. Stedman's Plus has another helpful feature. It incorporates recognition of combining forms that are often used to make words. In a sample search, the software skipped over lymphoblastoid and lymphohematopoietic, neither of which appears in the 25th edition of *Stedman's Medical Dictionary*, but both of which are constructs like those often seen in medical terminology. The publisher states that the vocabulary available to the spell checker comes from *Stedman's Medical Dictionary*, *Merriam-Webster's*

[American] *English Dictionary*, and the *US Pharmacopeia (USP) generic and trade names for drugs from the US Adopted Names (USAN) and USP Dictionary of Drug Names*, all reliable sources.

The search capabilities depend partly on the word-processing software. Stedman's Plus displays a box on the screen with options to look up and replace a word, as well as to edit the document and return to the spell checking. The spell-checker will flag trade names for capitalization and alert the user to lower case generic terms. When generating suggestions for misspelled words in the searched document, Version 3.0, makes two passes through the spell-checking dictionaries. The first pass considers high probability or common misspellings (such as transpositions, my favourite) and the second pass, phonetic misspellings. The user can select a replacement word while the spell-checker is making the second pass.

Users of WordPerfect 5.1, 5.1 Plus and 6.0 for DOS can prioritize the Stedman's spell-check dictionaries being searched, for example, to search medical terms before terms from Webster's. They can also browse one dictionary at a time for a word that they know part of: type rhino*, the speller will search words beginning with rhino; type lymph?c?te, to search the letters represented by the ? symbol. Also, DOS users can install and run macros, for example, to initiate the spell check from the cursor, proceeding to the end of the document, rather than starting at page 1.

The writer's or editor's work is not finished when spell checking is completed, as we all know. A word like *electrophoresed* (which does not appear in *Stedman's Medical Dictionary* and which I find unacceptable) does appear in the spell checker, because *Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary* is descriptive rather than proscriptive. The spelling preferences may be set to ignore numbers, but the word-processing software will always query irregular capitalization, which is used in some trade names. Another problem is that a misspelling is not fixed throughout the document.

The installation of the Stedman's Plus, Version 3.0 spell checker requires 1.6 megabytes of free hard disk space and new settings regarding preferences. Authors and/or editors of scientific and medical documents will probably be pleased to have this software in their repertoire of tools.