Book reviews

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A HANDBOOK FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN THE HUMAN SERVICES

B. Littlechild, R. Smith (eds)
Pearson
price £27.99; pp 352
ISBN 9781408224403

A comprehensive, well written text that combines a wealth of knowledge gained from varying professionals who are experts in their field. It is a useful adjunct to any healthcare professional's library, being one of very few texts that address the needs of a wide range of specialised groups, enabling them to learn with, from and about each other. As a Foundation Dentist, this text has highlighted the importance of interprofessional care in providing optimum holistic healthcare for patients, specifically those who are vulnerable.

The layout, with clear headings and sub-sections along with key learning points, case reports and highlighted exercises, adds to its readability. There are detailed explanations entitled 'a closer look' that provide a more in-depth understanding for those not familiar with certain aspects of the profession.

Part one focuses on key issues of importance in interagency working, whilst part two focuses on the different service user groups. Those most interesting, and perhaps relevant to dentistry, are the sections on safeguarding children and care of the elderly. This is important as we live in a society where increased vigilance is essential and care of the aging population dominates treatment requirements. The sections on learning difficulties and mental health issues are also valuable, focusing on the treatment

needs of patients and highlighting the necessity for the collaboration of multiple agencies in order to provide comprehensive care. Part three focuses closely on the service providers themselves, their rights, needs and expectations, along with the barriers they face with interagency working. Within this section, Pamela Ward, an experienced community dentist brings a 'previously rarely considered profession under the spotlight'. In chapter 24, she discusses how we as dentists can contribute significantly to interprofessional team-working.

This chapter looks more closely into the change in cultural acceptance with regards to dental care. It highlights the increase in elderly dentate patients who may require communication between both the dental and 'external' teams. It also emphasises the importance of the dentist's role in raising concerns and liaising with other healthcare professionals in the provision of care for those considered vulnerable.

In conclusion, this text highlights the significance of interprofessional working and the attention which must be given to this by all professionals in order to achieve the necessary treatment and care for the patient.

E. L. Skipper

DENTAL PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

G. Bridges
Stephen Hancocks Ltd
price £27.50; pp 146
ISBN 9780956566812

Dentists receive little or no formal training in business management, yet primary dental care is becoming increasingly dominated by key performance

indicators, service user feedback and a necessity to provide evidence that standards of quality are being met.

The Care Quality Commission now requires the practice team to include a registered manager. This book will help principals and dentists understand the necessary skills to develop a successful practice, whether performing management skills themselves or delegating to a formally qualified or appointed practice manager.

The author has 20 years experience working with GDPs and their teams and has developed dental-based BTEC accredited qualifications. The book is divided into seven chapters covering a range of topics, including established theories and application of management techniques, marketing strategies and team development. Chapters vary from 15 to 20 pages in length, making it more of a lunch-time read, rather than a book to dip into between appointments.

The book uses a series of case studies to illustrate common problems arising in dental practice and how to overcome them. Even with my own limited experience in general practice, these examples seemed all too familiar, indicating that the author does indeed have a well rounded knowledge and experience of the sector.

There is a useful section covering suggested sources for further reading, a comprehensive glossary and a short bibliography, which to the clinician who is used to heavily referenced and evidenced-based material, appears concise.

The book appreciates that the reader may have tried formal management techniques before and failed. It goes on to advise how to choose the management