

book reviews

Teamwork 7:

A training companion for dental nurses

Peter Rothwell (ed)

FGDP(UK) members £19;

non-members £28

ISBN: 0954345134

The concept of Teamwork 7 is not new, what is new is that it is the first training manual specifically for dental nurses. It is a comprehensive training package, which provides fundamental knowledge and underpins the work of a dental nurse, covering all the key competences assessed in the NEBDN National Certificate and NVQ level 3.

The key topics included in the manual are: developing knowledge and practice; plaque, caries and periodontal disease; infection control; restorative procedures; oral health assessment; fixed and removable prostheses; endodontics; communication; anatomy and physiology; health and safety;

oral health education; radiology; extractions and minor oral surgery; orthodontics; and equality and diversity.

The book is orderly, logical and easy to read, having been broken down into sections to allow you to explore each in detail before moving on to a new topic. The thorough contents page at the beginning acts as a good signpost. However, the book would still benefit from having an index page, to reduce the amount of time it takes to find a topic if you are not sure which section it falls in to.

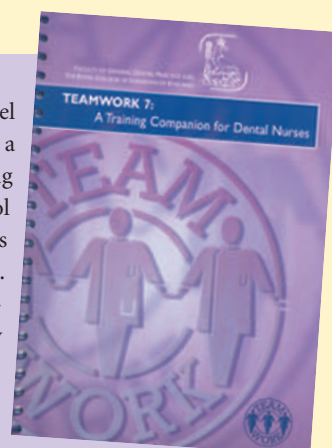
Each section is clearly defined, ending with an exercise to recap and also help you to assess your own learning. The illustrations used are also exceptionally good.

Although general anaesthesia and sedation are not a core part of the dental nurses' training curriculum, for the sake of completeness, I wish the publication had incorporated some mention of it. There are also one or two minor typographical errors.

Overall I feel that this book is a valuable teaching and learning tool for dental nurses and tutors alike. I would recommend that my own students and anybody else currently studying towards sitting the National Certificate examination or in the process of completing NVQ level 3 read it.

The FGDP(UK) and the authors should be congratulated on producing such an excellent resource for dental nurses undergoing training.

Sandra Smith, Dental Infection Control Advisor



Applied pharmacology for the dental hygienist (5th edition)

Elena Bablenis Haveles

Mosby £36.99

ISBN: 9780323048743

This is an incredible resource book for any dental practitioner – DCP and dentist alike. The book is divided into four sections: the general principles of pharmacology, the drugs used in dentistry, the drugs that may alter dental treatment and special situations applied to pharmacology. The book achieves its aim of 'offering the most effective way to gain a practical understanding of pharmacology that is relevant to the dental hygienist'.

The book is over 500 pages in all, but it is very easy to use as a reference resource due to the fact that each chapter begins with an outline of its contents and therefore a quick scan of the first page of each chapter will direct the reader to specific information if that is what is required. On the other hand, a more leisurely read gives valuable background information to the aspects of pharmacology which we take for granted on a daily basis. Information such as what each drug is used for (indications), how the body handles the drugs

(pharmacokinetics), what the drug does (pharmacologic effects), negative effects of the drug (adverse reactions) and how the drug reacts with other drugs in the body (drug interactions).

Generally, each chapter takes about 35-45 minutes to read and digest. There is a 'clinical skills assessment' set of questions at the end of each chapter to check understanding which takes about another 15 minutes to complete. This is both beneficial to understanding the chapter but is also ideal evidence of documented non-verifiable CPD which becomes mandatory from July 2008.

In reviewing this book, I narrowed my reading to one chapter from each of three different sections of the book in order to get an overview of the book as a whole. Each chapter keeps to the same style of approach throughout the book which gives a consistency to the reader. Important points within the text are summarised through the use of tables and boxes which make it easier to understand. For example, the chapter on local anaesthetics has a box listing the properties of the ideal local anaesthetic, a box listing the mechanism of action, a table listing the maximum safe dose of local anaesthetics and a table list-

ing the maximum safe dose of vasoconstrictors to normal and cardiac patients, to name but a few.

The book has a very informative appendix section including a list of the top 200 most prescribed drugs, and what they are used for. The list gives both brand name and generic name which is important as the same drug can be branded under different names. Appendix D is titled 'what if...' and gives a series of 'decision trees' to help guide the practitioner through steps involving assessing clinical situations quickly and making the right decisions in issues such as drugs safe to use in pregnancy, allergy treatment, infective endocarditis prophylaxis and treating patients on warfarin. Appendix E gives a very comprehensive list of all the agents that produce xerostomia and alter taste.

This book is a must on every dental practitioner's shelf – it should not be restricted to the dental hygienist!

Marina Harris LLM BSc (Hons) RDH

