Respiratory Care

Principles and Practice

Second Edition

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## Contents

Preface  xiii  
Contributing Authors  xv  
Reviewers  xix  

### SECTION I  Respiratory Assessment  1

#### Chapter 1  History and Physical Examination  3  
Priscilla Simmons  
Creating a Therapeutic Climate  4  
Components of the Health History  4  
Vital Signs  5  
Techniques of Assessment  5  
Physical Examination of the Lungs and Thorax  6  
Assessment of Other Body Systems  16  

#### Chapter 2  Gas Exchange  21  
Yuh-Chin T. Huang, Erika Lease, and Will Beachey  
Physiology of Gas Exchange  22  
Assessment of Gas Exchange  34  
Physiologic Mechanisms of Hypercapnia  38  

#### Chapter 3  Acid–Base Balance  41  
Yuh-Chin T. Huang, Erika Lease, and Will Beachey  
Physiology of Acid–Base Balance  42  
Definition of Acid and Base  42  
Concept of pH  42  
Buffer Solutions  43  
Henderson-Hasselbalch Equation  44  
Base Excess  44  

#### Chapter 4  Arterial Blood Gas Analysis and Sampling  55  
Yuh-Chin T. Huang, Erika Lease, and Will Beachey  
History of Arterial Blood Gas Analysis  56  
Blood Gas Analyzers  57  
Blood Gas Sampling  59  
Quality Control  64  

#### Chapter 5  Respiratory Monitoring  68  
Dean R. Hess  
Pulse Oximetry  69  
Capnography  75  
Transcutaneous Blood Gas Monitoring  81  
Respiratory Rate and Pattern  83  

#### Chapter 6  Hemodynamic Monitoring  87  
Joseph A. Govert and Dean R. Hess  
Cardiac Rate and Rhythm  88  
Arterial Blood Pressure  88  
Central Venous Pressure Monitoring  91  
Pulmonary Artery Catheters  92  
Clinical Use of Hemodynamic Measurements  98  

Anion Gap  44  
Strong Ion Difference  45  
Regulation of pH  47  
Erythrocytes and Acid–Base Control  47  
Acid Production and Excretion  48  
Acid–Base Disorders  50  
Interpretive Strategies for Acid–Base Disorders  51  

© Jones & Bartlett Learning, LLC.  NOT FOR SALE OR DISTRIBUTION.
Chapter 7  Cardiac Assessment  101
   Jaspal Singh
   Evaluation of Ventricular Function  102
   Valvular Function  105
   Coronary Artery Disease  107
   Cardiac Conduction System  112

Chapter 8  Blood Chemistries and Hematology  126
   Rafat O. Mohammed, Rajesh Bhagat, and Neil R. MacIntyre
   Serum Electrolytes  127
   Serum Chemistries Associated with Renal Function  133
   Serum Enzyme Activity  133
   Cardiac Enzymes and Proteins  134
   Miscellaneous Serum Chemistries  135
   Coagulation Tests  136
   Hematology  137
   Laboratory Standards and Quality Control  139

Chapter 9  Imaging the Thorax  141
   Paolo Formenti, Vinko F. Tomicic, and Dean R. Hess
   Density and Contrast  142
   The Normal Chest Radiograph  142
   Abnormalities Seen on Chest Radiographs  145
   Cross-Sectional Imaging Techniques  151

Chapter 10  Pulmonary Function Testing  157
   Ellen Cannefax and Paul Enright
   Goals of Pulmonary Function Testing  158
   Spirometry  158
   Lung Volumes and Capacities  168
   Diffusing Capacity  171
   Specialized Pulmonary Function Tests  172

Chapter 11  Interventional Pulmonary Procedures  176
   Momen M. Wahidi and Scott L. Shofer
   Diagnostic Bronchoscopy  177
   Therapeutic Bronchoscopy  194
   Airway Stenting  198
   Pleural Disease  200
   Future Directions  203

Chapter 12  Polysomnography  207
   Bashir A. Chaudhary, Susan Whiddon, and Shelley C. Mische
   Normal Sleep and Sleep Stages  208
   Polysomnography Components  208
   Scoring Criteria  213
   Polysomnography Report  217

Chapter 13  Nutrition Assessment and Support  219
   Charles D. McArthur
   Effects of Nutrition on Respiratory Function  220
   Nutrition Assessment  221
   Calculation of Energy Requirements  222
   Nutritional Support Guidelines  226

Chapter 14  Cardiopulmonary Exercise Assessment  231
   Neil R. MacIntyre
   Normal Cardiopulmonary Response to Exercise  232
   Incremental Exercise Testing  233
   Interpreting the Results of Incremental Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing  236
   Timed Walk Tests  237
   Indications for Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing  237
   Safety Issues  240

SECTION II  Respiratory Therapeutics  243

Chapter 15  Therapeutic Gases: Manufacture, Storage, and Delivery  245
   John Boatright and Jeffrey J. Ward
   Chemical and Physical Properties of Therapeutic Gases  246
   Therapeutic Gases in Respiratory Care  248
   Storage and Distribution of Medical Gases  255
### Chapter 16 - Therapeutic Gases: Management and Administration

John Boatright and Jeffrey J. Ward

- The Rationale for Supplemental Oxygen 272
- Patient Conditions Commonly Warranting Oxygen Therapy 273
- Limitations of Supplemental Oxygen 274
- Complications and Hazards of Oxygen Therapy 274
- Dosage Regulation and Administration 277
- Oxygen Administration Devices 280
- Monitoring the Physiologic Effects of Oxygen 291
- Clinical Application of Oxygen Therapy 292
- Helium–Oxygen Therapy 294
- Carbon Dioxide Therapy 297
- Nitric Oxide Therapy 298

### Chapter 17 - Humidity and Aerosol Therapy

Dean R. Hess

- Humidity 304
- Normal Heat and Moisture Exchange 304
- Goals of Humidity Therapy 305
- Devices Used for Humidification 306
- Bland Aerosol Therapy 312
- Device Selection for Humidity Therapy 313
- Aerosol Drug Administration 313
- Aerosol Generators 315
- Aerosol Delivery During Mechanical Ventilation 329
- Aerosol Delivery by Tracheostomy 335
- Selection of an Aerosol Delivery Device 336

### Chapter 18 - Sputum Collection, Airway Clearance, and Lung Expansion Therapy

Dean R. Hess

- Normal Mechanisms of Mucociliary Transport 343
- Sputum Collection 345
- Airway Clearance 349
- Lung Expansion Therapy 368

### Chapter 19 - Airway Management

John D. Davies, Robert A. May, and Pamela L. Bortner

- Oropharyngeal Airways 378
- Nasopharyngeal Airways 380
- History of Intubation 381
- Selection and Training of Personnel 381
- Indications for Endotracheal Intubation 382
- The Difficult Airway: Assessment and Strategy 383
- Endotracheal Intubation 384
- Tracheostomy 401
- Tracheostomy Tubes 402
- Airway Cuff Concerns 409
- Airway Clearance 410

### Chapter 20 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Rhonda Bevis and Christine J. Moore

- Basic Life Support 420
- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support 434
- Ethical Concerns 440

### Chapter 21 - Mechanical Ventilators: Classification and Principles of Operation

Robert L. Chatburn and Teresa A. Volsko

- Basic Concepts 445
- Input Power 445
- Power Transmission and Conversion 446
- Control System 446
- Control Variables 449
- Phase Variables 450
- Modes of Ventilation 454
- Targeting Scheme Output 457
- Effects of the Patient Circuit 457
- Ventilator Alarm Systems 459
Chapter 22  Mechanical Ventilation  462
Dean R. Hess and Neil R. MacIntyre
The Equation of Motion  464
Indications for Mechanical Ventilation  464
Complications of Mechanical Ventilation  464
Ventilator Settings  467
Monitoring the Mechanically Ventilated Patient  482
Choosing Ventilator Settings for Different Forms of Respiratory Failure  490
Ventilatory Support Involves Trade-Offs  491
Liberation from Mechanical Ventilation  492

Chapter 23  Noninvasive Ventilation and Continuous Positive Airway Pressure  501
Dean R. Hess
Interfaces  502
Noninvasive Positive Pressure Ventilation  505
Continuous Positive Airway Pressure  512
Negative Pressure Ventilation, Rocking Beds, and Pneumobelts  517

Chapter 24  Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care  521
Melissa K. Brown and Steven C. Mason
Neonatal Assessment  522
Oxygen Therapy  526
Mechanical Ventilation  527
Manual Ventilation  527
Airway Management  529
Nasal Continuous Positive Airway Pressure  531
Noninvasive Positive Pressure Ventilation  532
Conventional Infant and Pediatric Ventilation  532
High-Frequency Ventilation  538
Adjuncts to Neonatal and Pediatric Mechanical Ventilation  545

Chapter 25  Pulmonary Rehabilitation  549
Neil R. MacIntyre
Mechanisms of Functional Deterioration in Patients with Chronic Lung Disease  550
Program Structure  550
The Process of Pulmonary Rehabilitation  551
Outcomes from a Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program  555
Reimbursement Issues  556

Chapter 26  Home Respiratory Care  559
Angela King and Robert McCoy
Home Care Services  560
Goals of Home Care  560
The Medicare Program  560
Requirements for Home Medical Equipment Companies  561
The Respiratory Therapist as Home Care Provider  564
The Initial Home Visit  565
Bag Technique  566
Home Environment Evaluation  566
Long-Term Oxygen Therapy  569
Home Mechanical Ventilation  577

Chapter 27  Disaster Management  589
Richard D. Branson
History  590
The Threat  590
Planning for Mass Casualty Respiratory Failure  591
Ventilator Performance Characteristics  593
Ventilators for Mass Casualty Respiratory Failure  594
Triage  597

Chapter 28  Respiratory Care of the Elderly  598
Helen M. Sorenson
The Demography of Aging  599
Aging Pulmonary Anatomy and Physiology  600
Geriatric Patient Assessment  601
Atypical Disease Presentation  603
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 29</th>
<th>Medical Information Management and Patient Safety 615</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Malinowski</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Information Management 616</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Medical or Health Records 619</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriate Handling of Patient Information 620</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Safety 622</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Initiatives and Respiratory Care Applications 624</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 30</th>
<th>Principles of Disease Management 631</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William F. Galvin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forces Driving Disease Management 632</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Evolution of Disease Management 633</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terms, Factors, and Concepts Associated with Disease Management 634</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goals of Disease Management 635</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Principles of Disease Management 636</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases Targeted for Disease Management Programs 638</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steps to Develop a Disease Management Program 639</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barriers and Opportunities 640</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Therapists as Disease Managers 641</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 31</th>
<th>Patient Education 643</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William F. Galvin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making the Case for Patient Education 644</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definition of Terms 645</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching and Learning Aspects of Patient Education 649</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 32</th>
<th>Decision Making and the Role of Respiratory Therapists as Consultants 678</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelley C. Mishoe and Laura H. Beveridge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Evolving Role of Respiratory Therapists as Decision Makers and Consultants 679</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Guidelines, Protocols, and Pathways 680</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation Skills for Healthcare Professionals 686</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Therapists as Healthcare Consultants 687</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 33</th>
<th>Infection Control Principles 693</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donna D. Gardner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmission of Infection 694</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategies for Infection Control 695</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory Agencies 695</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sterilization 695</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precautions 701</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare-Associated Infections Related to Respiratory Care Equipment 708</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 34</th>
<th>Asthma 710</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timothy R. Myers and Timothy Op’t Holt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epidemiology 711</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathophysiology 712</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathogenesis 714</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Factors 714</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Asthma Phenotypes 716</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Severity Classification 717</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessing Control of Asthma 719</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective Measurements 719</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacologic Therapy 722</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerosol Therapy 726</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjunctive Treatments 727</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education 730</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 35  Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease  735
John E. Heffner
Burden of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease  736
Definitions and Staging of Disease  736
Etiology of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease  738
Pathophysiology of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease  739
Diagnosis and Clinical Course  742
Outpatient Care of Stable Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease  743
Surgery  749
Overview of Management of Stable Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease  752
Managing Exacerbations  752
Palliative and End-of-Life Care  758

Chapter 36  Interstitial Lung Disease  765
Kathleen A. Short and Andrew J. Ghio
Pathophysiology  766
Classification  767
Clinical Presentation and Diagnostic Evaluation  768
Pathology  772
Prognosis  772
Management  772
Associated Diseases  773

Chapter 37  Pulmonary Vascular Disease  779
C. William Hargett and Victor F. Tapson
Pathophysiology  780
Epidemiology  781
Diagnosis  782
Management of Selected Pulmonary Vascular Diseases  785

Chapter 38  Pneumonia  792
Bekele Afessa
Definition and Classification of Pneumonia  793
Diagnostic Workup  794
Bacterial Causes of Pneumonia  797
Anaerobic Bacterial Infection  800
Viral Causes of Pneumonia  800
Mycobacterial Causes of Pneumonia  801
Fungal Respiratory Infections  803
Actinomycosis and Nocardiosis  804
Community-Acquired Pneumonia  805
Healthcare-Associated Pneumonia and Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia  810
Pneumonia in Immunocompromised Patients Without HIV Infection  817
Pneumonia in Patients with HIV Infection  819
Pneumonia in Children  821

Chapter 39  Cystic Fibrosis  826
Teresa A. Volsko, Catherine O’Malley, Scott H. Donaldson, James R. Yankaskas, and Bruce K. Rubin
History  827
Pathogenesis  827
Diagnosis  829
Extrapulmonary Manifestations  830
Respiratory Manifestations  832
Major Respiratory Complications  834
Standard Therapy of Lung Disease  836

Chapter 40  Acute Lung Injury and the Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome  845
Michael A. Gentile and Christopher E. Cox
Definition  846
Incidence  846
Etiology  846
Clinical Manifestations  847
Pathobiology  848
The National Institutes of Health ARDS Network  848
Management  848
Outcomes  852

Chapter 41  Postoperative Respiratory Care  856
Mark Simmons and Priscilla Simmons
Preoperative Assessment and Management  857
Preoperative Testing  859
Intraoperative Risk Factors  860
Postoperative Respiratory Failure: Assessment and Management  861
Atelectasis  862
Pulmonary Emboli and Pulmonary Thromboembolic Disease  864
Chapter 42 Cardiac Failure 868
William S. Stigler and Benjamin D. Medoff
Definition 869
Cardiac Physiology 869
Determinants of Ventricular Function 870
Pathophysiology of Cardiac Failure 872
Pathophysiology of Pulmonary Edema 875
Heart-Lung Interactions 876
Clinical Aspects of Cardiac Failure 878
Measurement and Monitoring of Cardiac Function 879
Treatment Guidelines for Chronic Cardiac Failure 881
Treatment Guidelines for Acute Cardiac Failure 883
Acute Myocardial Infarction 884
Ventilatory Support of the Patient with Cardiac Failure 884

Chapter 43 Trauma 890
Bryce R. H. Robinson and Richard D. Branson
The Primary and Secondary Surveys 891
Thoracic Trauma 891
Airway and Breathing Injuries 891
Circulation Injuries 893
Injuries Encountered During the Secondary Survey 895
Head Trauma 898
Primary Survey Issues of Head Injury 900
Secondary Survey Issues of Head Injury 900
Treatment of Head Injuries 901

Chapter 44 Burn and Inhalation Injury 904
Robert L. Sheridan and Daniel F. Fisher
Burn Injury 905
Inhalation Injury 909
Management of Inhalation Injury 911

Chapter 45 Neuromuscular Dysfunction 919
Francis C. Cordova, John Mullarkey, and Gerard J. Criner
Overview 920
Pathophysiology of Neuromuscular Disease on Respiratory Function 920
Evaluation of Respiratory Function in Patients with Neuromuscular Disease 926
Upper Motor Neuron Disorders 929
Lower Motor Neuron Disorders 933
Disorders of the Peripheral Nerves 935
Disorders of the Neuromuscular Junction 939
Inherited Myopathies 942
Acquired Inflammatory Myopathies 946
Treatment of Neuromuscular Dysfunction 947

Chapter 46 Obstructive Sleep Apnea 956
Bashir A. Chaudhary, Arthur Taft, and Shelley C. Mishoe
Descriptions and Common Terms 957
Obstructive Sleep Apnea 959
Complications of Obstructive Sleep Apnea 961
Diagnosis of Obstructive Sleep Apnea 963
Treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnea 963
Mortality Associated with Obstructive Sleep Apnea 968

Chapter 47 Lung Cancer 971
Maha Farhat
Classification 972
Epidemiology 974
Risk Factors and Etiology 974
Presentation 975
Solitary Pulmonary Nodule 978
Diagnosis 980
Workup and Staging 981
Treatment 983
Chapter 48 Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Disorders 992

Sherry Barnhart

Apnea of Prematurity 993
Respiratory Distress Syndrome 994
Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia and Chronic Lung Disease 997

Transient Tachypnea of the Newborn 1000
Pneumonia in the Neonate 1001
Meconium Aspiration Syndrome 1003
Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension of the Newborn 1005
Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia 1009
Air Leak Syndrome 1012
Retinopathy of Prematurity 1014
Bronchiolitis 1016
Laryngotracheobronchitis 1019
Epiglottitis 1021

Chapter 49 Respiratory Care Research 1029

Alexander B. Adams

Design Factors 1030
Statistical Issues 1033
Study Types 1036

Chapter 50 Physical Principles 1041

Peter Bliss and Alexander B. Adams

Basic Physics 1042
Gas Laws 1047
Gas Mixtures and Partial Pressures 1048
Humidity, Water Vapor, and Evaporation 1048
Gases in Solution, Diffusion, and Osmosis 1050
Conversion of Gas Volumes 1051
Conservation of Energy 1052
Flow of Gases and Other Fluids 1052
Application of Physical Principles to Measurement and Physiology 1056

Chapter 51 Chemistry for Respiratory Care 1059

Carl F. Haas and Allan G. Andrews

Basic Chemistry 1060
Inorganic Molecules 1069
Organic Molecules 1073
Fluid Balance 1078
Metabolic Pathways 1081

Chapter 52 Respiratory Microbiology 1084

Ruben D. Restrepo and Marcos I. Restrepo

Bacteria 1085
Viruses 1094
Fungi 1095
Parasites 1098
Common Respiratory Infections 1098
Sampling Methods 1100
Microbiology Techniques 1101
Antimicrobial Resistance 1102

Chapter 53 Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology 1105

Joseph Buhain and Avi Nahum

The Heart 1106
Circulatory System 1108
Gross Anatomy of the Respiratory System 1109
Anatomy of the Thorax 1112
Microanatomy of the Respiratory System 1117
Functional Characteristics of the Respiratory System 1120

Chapter 54 Respiratory Pharmacology 1125

Kelly Sioris and Kristin Engebretsen

Routes of Delivery 1126
Principles of Pharmacotherapy 1126
Pharmacologic Therapies 1127
Drugs for Airway and Ventilator Management 1134
Diuretics 1136
Hemodynamic Control 1137
SECTION V  The Respiratory Care Profession 1141

Chapter 55  History of the Respiratory Care Profession 1143
Jeffrey J. Ward

Chapter 56  Professional Organizations 1170
Lynda T. Goodfellow
American Association for Respiratory Care 1171
American Respiratory Care Foundation 1173
National Board for Respiratory Care 1174
Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care 1175
National Association for Medical Direction of Respiratory Care 1176
American College of Chest Physicians 1177
American Thoracic Society 1177
American Society of Anesthesiologists 1178
Society of Critical Care Medicine 1178
The Joint Commission 1179
National Asthma Educator Certification Board 1179
Association of Asthma Educators 1180
American Academy of Sleep Medicine 1180
Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists 1181

Chapter 57  Healthcare Trends and Evolving Roles of Respiratory Therapists 1182
Shelley C. Mishoe and Kathleen M. Hernlen

Chapter 58  Critical Thinking in Respiratory Care 1202
Shelley C. Mishoe
What Is Critical Thinking, and Why Is It Important for Respiratory Therapists? 1203
The Essential Skills for Critical Thinking in Practice 1203
Abilities and Characteristics of Critical Thinkers 1207
Teaching Critical Thinking 1208

Chapter 59  Ethics of Healthcare Delivery 1215
Douglas E. Masini
Definition of Ethics 1216
Foundations of Ethical Thinking 1216
Ethical Versus Legal Behavior 1217
Ethical Theories 1218
Ethical Principles 1219
Role of Professional Organizations in Ethics 1228
Ethics Committees 1229

Chapter 60  Communication Skills 1238
William F. Galvin
Miscommunication: The Case for Effective Communication Skills 1239
Basic Concepts of Communication 1240
Principles and Assumptions 1242
Communication Defined 1244
Factors Affecting Communication 1244
Barriers to Effective Communication 1250
Contents

Basic Goals and Purpose of Communication 1250
Effective Communication 1251
Questioning Techniques 1253

Chapter 61 Healthcare Reimbursement 1259
Karen Stewart and William F. Galvin
Basic Healthcare Delivery Functions 1260
Stakeholders in Healthcare Reimbursement 1260
The Respiratory Therapist’s Role: Balancing Cost and Care 1262
Forces Influencing Healthcare Costs 1262
Financing Healthcare: A Brief History and Overview 1264
The Era of Managed Care 1269
Reimbursement Methodologies 1270
The Future of Healthcare Funding 1273
Reimbursement and the Respiratory Therapist 1273

Chapter 62 Evidence-Based Respiratory Care 1276
Dean R. Hess
What Is Evidence-Based Respiratory Care? 1277
Hierarchy of Evidence 1277
Evidence for a Diagnostic Test 1278
Evidence for a Therapy 1279
Meta-Analysis 1281
Finding the Evidence 1283
Narrative Reviews and Systematic Reviews 1285
Clinical Practice Guidelines 1285

Glossary 1287
Index 1319
Photo Credits 1369
Preface

Ten years is a long time. A lot can happen in 10 years. In the 10 years since the publication of the First Edition of this book, the New England Patriots won the Super Bowl 3 times, the Boston Red Sox won the World Series twice, and the Boston Celtics won an NBA championship once. Some might have thought that impossible, just as some might have thought a second edition of this book impossible. But we are back, better than ever, in champion form, with the Second Edition of Respiratory Care: Principles and Practice.

As you will see, the Second Edition is completely reorganized. Patient assessment has been moved to the beginning of the book, which recognizes the important role of patient assessment in everyday respiratory care practice. This is followed by respiratory therapeutics, respiratory diseases, applied sciences, and, finally, the professional aspects of respiratory care. Many topics important to contemporary practice have been added. These include geriatrics, patient safety, disaster management, home care, and expanded coverage of neonatal/pediatrics. Nearly all of the art has been updated or replaced in this edition. Full color photographs and illustrations are used to embellish the text. Many new authors have been added to breathe new life into the material, more than half of whom are practicing respiratory therapists. Because the book has been so thoroughly rewritten and reworked, it appears more like a third or fourth edition than a second edition.

All of the successful pedagogical features of the First Edition have been retained for this edition. These features include the use of the clinical practice guidelines of the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC), glossary terms, key points, and respiratory recaps. In addition to the text itself, online features are available to support students and faculty. For students, there are chapter quizzes, case studies, and additional interactive activities. For faculty, we provide PowerPoint presentations, an ImageBank, a TestBank, and more. A companion website is available for this text at http://go.blearning.com/respiratorycare.

The focus of the text is respiratory therapy practice in the 21st century. The modern respiratory therapist must be a technologist, physiologist, and clinician. The respiratory therapist of today is expected to be a clinical leader, which includes input into the development of multidisciplinary care plans and implementation of respiratory care protocols. Moreover, contemporary practice is evidence based. Each of these important aspects of modern respiratory care practice was carefully considered in the preparation of this book.

The primary audience of this book is respiratory therapy students. We have written this book for students, having considered the examination matrix of the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) to ensure that all of the topics on the board exams (and more) are included. In the online TestBank, questions are keyed to the examination matrix. But this is more than a book designed to assure success on the board exams. Respiratory Care, Second Edition includes many topics beyond the NBRC exam matrix that are intended to help students become well-rounded members of the patient care team.

We strived to make this text readable and the content within reach of students. We included boxes, tables, and illustrations to assist learning. We carefully edited the book for consistency in writing style throughout. However, we have not watered down the content. The material may be challenging at places, but the intent was not to make it difficult. Rather, it is written to help students maximize their contributions when interacting with physicians and other members of the healthcare team. An important aspect of professional interactions is the ability to use the language that others use at the bedside; whether a respiratory therapist, physician, or other healthcare professional, the language should always be the same.

Although this text is intended primarily for students, it will be useful for others as a reference book. For the respiratory therapist who graduated from school some time ago, this book should serve as a refresher and update. For those who are not respiratory therapists, the
content should provide insight into respiratory therapy practice and could serve as a reference text.

There are innumerable persons to be thanked for their contributions to the success of this project. First, I thank my co-editors. They embraced the vision and worked hard to make this book the best that it can be. Second, I thank all of the chapter authors who dealt with our prodding to complete their chapters to our expectations. Finally, I owe a mountain of gratitude to everyone at Jones & Bartlett Learning who poured their talents into this project and unselfishly went out of their way, without complaint, to make this book second to none.

It is my hope that the Second Edition of Respiratory Care: Principles and Practice will assist students as they master the art and science of respiratory care, that it contributes to an improvement in the stature of the respiratory care profession, and most importantly that it improves the care of patients with respiratory disorders.

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