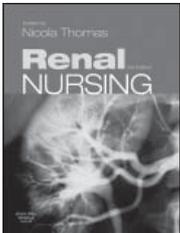


Book Review



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Renal Nursing 3rd Edition

Editor: Nicola Thomas

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In the six years since the last edition of *Renal Nursing* was published we have seen considerable advances in both the practice and focus of nephrology nursing. Two significant changes that stand out are the introduction of estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) as routine on pathology results, and a stronger focus on chronic kidney disease (CKD) screening and prevention programs. The third edition updates these aspects and provides us with an alternative to the comprehensive texts from those of our colleagues in the United States and our own Australian text.

The context for the third edition is grounded in the United Kingdom's (UK) National Health Services National Service Framework (NSF) (part two) for renal services. Part two of the renal NSF consists of four quality domains which reflect the focus of renal services in the UK including, CKD, acute renal dysfunction and end of life care. These changes in priority for the UK's National Health Service are reflected in the 3rd edition of *Renal Nursing*, particularly with the addition of a more focussed CKD screening and prevention section to the previous editions predialysis chapter. There is also a new and thought provoking chapter on end of life care. The addition of this new and relevant content has unfortunately seen the omission of the second editions chapter on community nursing in renal care which may reflect the decreased number patients undertaking self care dialysis modalities in the United Kingdom.

Diagrams and illustrations are detailed, however they may benefit from a little added creativity as an adjunct to the text. Diagrams that assist in explaining content need to add some value to the reader in helping understand sometimes difficult subject matter. An example of this is the diagram that supports renal handling of calcium and phosphate in chapter two. With concepts such as calcium-phosphate regulation being potentially difficult to comprehend, diagrams need to be dynamic and augment in-text explanations.

Given that this is a UK text, Australasian renal nurses may be disappointed by the lack of inclusion of current trends and issues in Australasian renal nursing. There is little consideration given to home haemodialysis, nocturnal haemodialysis or renal outreach programmes. In addition, I would have preferred more on the concepts of empowering self efficacy/management not just with self care dialysis but overall management of renal dysfunction. In saying this Thomas does address these areas in her advanced text, *Advanced Renal Care* (Thomas, 2004).

Overall the 3rd edition of *Renal Nursing* provides a very good introduction to nephrology nursing for the beginner to intermediate practitioner. Get it if you are new to our specialty or if you are undertaking post graduate renal studies and are looking for a general renal nursing text.

Chapter Contents

1. The history of dialysis and transplantation
2. Applied anatomy and physiology and the renal disease process
3. Psychological perspectives
4. Acute renal failure
5. Chronic kidney disease and predialysis care
6. Investigations in renal failure
7. Haemodialysis
8. Peritoneal dialysis
9. End of life care
10. Renal care in infancy, childhood and early adulthood
11. Renal nutrition
12. Renal transplantation
13. Clinical practice guidelines and nursing audit
14. Future trends in renal nursing

Reference

Thomas, N. (2004). *Advanced Renal Care* Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.