The intended purpose of this book is to provide non-specialist practitioners with a clinically based, practical understanding of how to diagnose and manage chronic kidney disease (CKD). The author, Robert Lewis, has been a consultant renal physician at the Wessex Regional Renal and Transplant service, Portsmouth, United Kingdom, for 15 years.

The author suggests that up until recently, patients with signs of CKD were referred to a renal consultant who was the primary carer from then on. There has been a change in this thinking, especially due to the increase in interest in early CKD management and the increased number of patients with diabetes and hypertension who are at risk of CKD. The author therefore suggests that there is a requirement for those with general medical knowledge to improve their level of understanding of renal disease. Without this knowledge there is a risk of misinformed patients, inappropriate referral to specialists and poor use of financial resources.


Each chapter of the book contains definitions, a series of pictures, tables, statistics where necessary, key points, references and further reading. The book does not intend to be a detailed account of pathophysiology or histology; it aims at providing an increased understanding of guidelines, protocols and recommendations for CKD. With this in mind, some chapters reveal discrepancies between CKD Guidelines utilised in the UK and the Chronic Kidney Disease Management in General Practice Guidelines 2012 compiled by Kidney Health Australia which have been reviewed previously in this journal. For example, the guidelines referred to in this book do not include people who are obese, elderly (greater than 60 years) and, not surprisingly, do not include people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background as being at risk for CKD. For this reason the book is informative and a good reference but should be read in conjunction with the Australian Guidelines.