

# ABC<sub>of</sub> Clinical Reasoning

SECOND EDITION

Edited by Nicola Cooper and John Frain

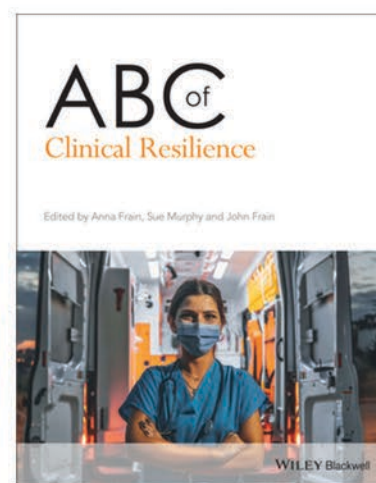
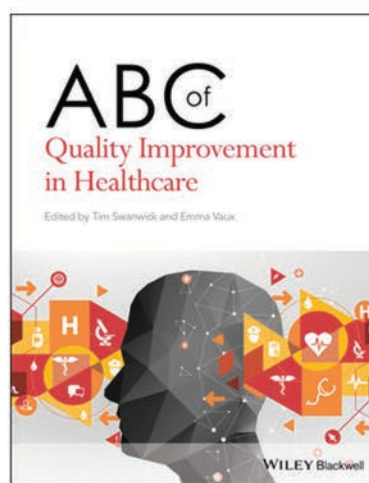
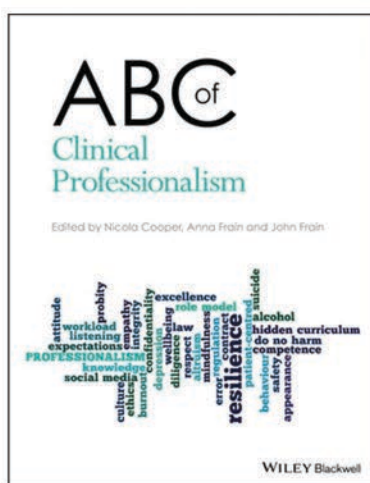
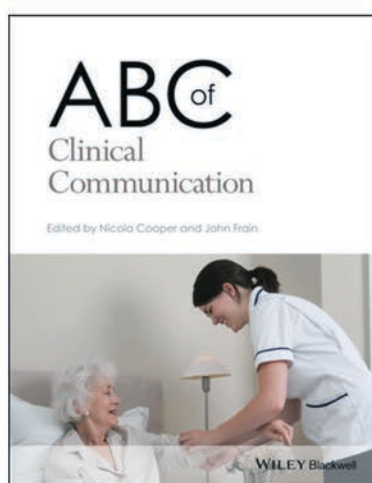


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# Clinical Reasoning

2nd Edition

EDITED BY

*Nicola Cooper*

Consultant Physician & Clinical Associate Professor in Medical Education  
Medical Education Centre  
University of Nottingham, UK

*John Frain*

General Practitioner & Clinical Associate Professor  
Director of Clinical Skills  
Division of Medical Sciences & Graduate Entry Medicine  
University of Nottingham, UK

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# Contributors

## Nicola Cooper

MBChB MMedSci FRCPE FRACP FAcadMed SFHEA  
Consultant Physician and Clinical Associate Professor in Medical Education  
Medical Education Centre, University of Nottingham, UK

## Pat Croskerry

MD PhD FRCP(Edin)  
Director, Critical Thinking Program  
Division of Medical Education, Dalhousie University, Canada

## John Frain

MBChB MSc FRCGP DGM DCH DRCOG PGDipCard SFHEA  
General Practitioner and Clinical Associate Professor  
Director of Clinical Skills  
Division of Medical Sciences and Graduate Entry Medicine  
University of Nottingham, UK

## Simon Gay

MBBS MSc MMedEd FRCGP SFHEA  
Professor of Medical Education (Primary Care)  
University of Leicester School of Medicine, UK

## Anna Hammond

MBChB DRCOG FRCGP MClinEd SFHEA  
General Practitioner and Academic Lead for Clinical Skills and Reasoning  
Hull York Medical School, UK

## Mini Singh

MBChB MMed FRCP PFHEA  
Professor of Medical Education and Honorary Consultant Dermatologist  
University of Manchester, UK

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# Preface (Second Edition)

Excellence in clinical practice is not just about good knowledge, skills, and behaviours. As fellow author Pat Croskerry points out, how doctors think, reason, and make decisions is arguably their most critical skill. While medical schools and postgraduate training programmes teach and assess the knowledge and skills required to practice as a doctor, few currently offer comprehensive training in clinical reasoning and decision making. This matters because studies show that diagnostic error is common and results in significant harm to patients, and the majority of the root causes of diagnostic error involve errors in clinical reasoning.

Clinical reasoning is complex and takes years to learn. Most of the time it is learned implicitly and in an *ad hoc* fashion. In this book, we have made it explicit, broken down into its core components. This book is designed to be an introduction for individuals

and also an up-to-date resource for teachers and curriculum planners. Each chapter describes a component of clinical reasoning and its applications for clinical practice, teaching, and learning. This second edition has been extensively re-written and updated, and key references and further resources have been included for readers who want to explore topics in more detail.

Clinical reasoning is relevant to every clinical specialty in every setting, and it is not confined to medical students and doctors – we have written this book with advanced clinical practitioners and other clinicians in mind as well. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed re-writing and editing it.

**Nicola Cooper**  
**John Frain**