

FUNDAMENTALS

Fundamentals of

# Medical-Surgical Nursing

A Systems Approach

EDITED BY **ANNE-MARIE BRADY,**  
**CATHERINE McCABE** AND  
**MARGARET McCANN**



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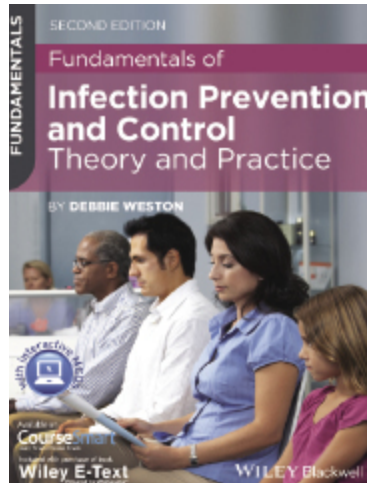
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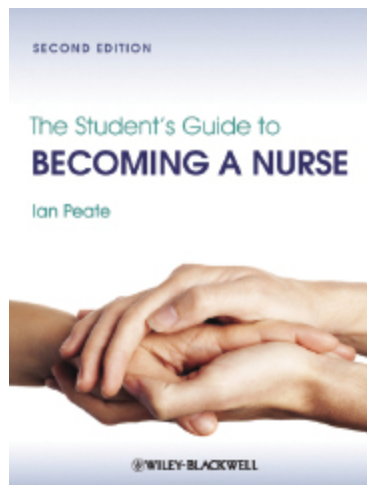
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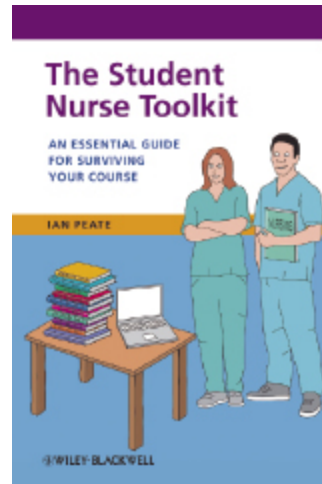
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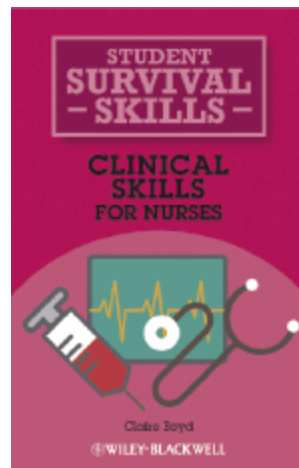
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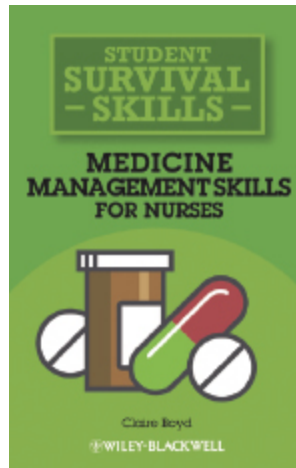


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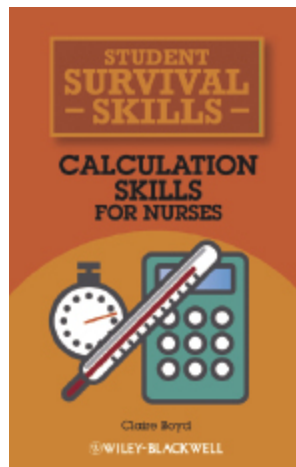
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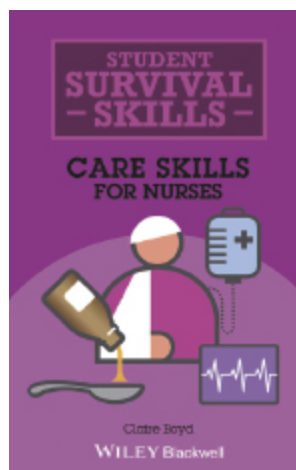
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# Preface

The impetus for this book came from the experience of teaching undergraduate and postgraduate nursing students and the realisation that a comprehensive textbook on medical and surgical nursing was needed to inform and guide learning related to the nursing care of adults. This book is designed to provide a broad overview and a practical understanding of the principles related to adult nursing. It examines the principles underpinning medical and surgical nursing and includes contemporary developments in clinical care, drawing extensively on national and international evidence. Using a systems approach, the book is designed to provide a comprehensive application of the relevant anatomy and physiology, which will inform medical and surgical nursing practice.

The book comprises 22 chapters and is presented in two sections that are designed to guide readers so they can reach an understanding of the context and the key aspects of medical and surgical nursing practice.

- [Part 1](#): Common Principles Underlying Medical and Surgical Nursing Practice
- [Part 2](#): Adult Medical and Surgical Nursing

[Part 1](#) addresses common principles that underpin medical and surgical nursing practice. [Chapter 1](#) presents an overview of the principles underlying the comprehensive nursing assessment of patient care needs. The management of medications is a major component of the everyday work of the nurse in a medical-surgical environment, and [Chapters 2](#) and [3](#) provide a comprehensive overview of the principles underlying care and the nurses' responsibilities in relation to drug administration, both oral and parental. Nutritional assessment and support is a key responsibility of



medical-surgical nursing care and is given detailed consideration in [Chapter 4](#). The prevention and control of infection is discussed in [Chapter 5](#) as this a fundamental element of all healthcare practice. Influenced by changing demographics, caring for the older person represents a significant proportion of everyday medical-surgical nursing practice, and [Chapter 6](#) seeks to develop an understanding of the unique care needs of this population. [Chapter 7](#) aims to develop the nurse's ability to provide appropriate and individualised care to families at the final stage of life. [Chapter 8](#) provides students with an overview of the principles of perioperative nursing. High-dependency care is an increasing feature of medical and surgical care environments and is addressed in [Chapter 9](#). The final chapter in this section gives the reader an overview of emergency department nursing and an understanding of the diverse nature of presenting medical/surgical emergencies, trauma and shock.

In [Part 2](#), a systems approach is taken to afford an overview of adult nursing in medical and surgical acute care environments. The nursing care related to all the systems is discussed in [Chapters 11-22](#) and covers topics related to the skin and the respiratory, cardiovascular, digestive, urinary, endocrine, neurology, immune, haematological, musculoskeletal, eye/ear,/nose/throat and reproductive systems. Each chapter presents a brief overview of the related anatomy and physiology to enhance students' understanding. All of the main conditions are considered, with a focus on relating the main concerns and priorities of medical and surgical nursing. Each chapter is associated with **additional sources of information** such as further reading, professional organisations and online resources.

To be used in addition to the traditional text, learning outcomes, conclusion and references, the website provides a series of **reflective questions** to prompt further

discussion in both the classroom and the work setting. **Case studies** are employed where possible to enable the reader to engage with the content from a service provider/user perspective. **Multiple choice questions** are also provided to enable self-evaluation.

The primary market for this textbook is undergraduate students in general nursing at the 3rd level in Ireland and the UK. The book should, however, be of interest to all students undertaking nursing degrees and courses in which general nursing skills are an expectation for professional performance. It will also be relevant to students of other nursing disciplines undertaking health service professional degrees who wish to understand the comorbidities of clients in their care. In addition, it will be a resource for staff already working in medical and surgical nursing.

**Anne-Marie Brady**  
**Catherine McCabe**  
**Margaret McCann**

## Acknowledgements

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