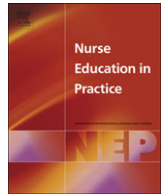


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## Book Review

**Core Curriculum for Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing, fourth ed. M. Terese Verklan, Marlene Walden. Saunders Elsevier, 11830 Westline Industrial Drive St Louis, Missouri 63146, ISBN: 978-1-4377-0260-6.**

### Description

This is the 4th edition of comprehensive guide for nurses caring for critically ill neonates and their families. This book is a collaboration of three nursing specialty organisations the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN), and the National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN). It is the gold standard for the purpose of neonatal nurse education.

### Audience

This book is aimed at nurses who provide care to neonates in the neonatal intensive care setting. It covers all aspects of neonatal care, including the antenatal period, research, informed consent, ethical and legal issues. It is presented in an easy to read format for those working in neonatology but can also be used as a reference for midwives.

### Features

The format is excellent with the book divided into four sections comprising of a number of chapters. Each section covers a variety of topics which provide insight and a foundation into all aspects of both routine and specialised neonatal care. Chapters have clear objectives followed by a number of subheadings. Each topic discussed is formatted by numbered points which facilitate easy understanding and reading. Explanatory diagrams and images are used but a slight criticism here is that some photographs are quite dated.

The 1st section in the book deals with the uncomplicated and complicated antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum care. Topics

included also are substance abuse, neonatal delivery and resuscitation. In Section 2 the "Cornerstones of Clinical Practice" are addressed with issues such as thermoregulation, physical assessment, fluid and electrolytes, pharmacology and laboratory interpretations. This section also covers nutrition, pain management, radiological evaluation, discharge planning and genetic information. Patient safety and care of extremely low birth weight infant and procedures are included. Section 3 deals with the pathophysiology and management and treatment of common disorders associated with the critically ill neonate. Section 4 focuses on the challenging ethical and legal issues that neonatal nurses confront. The information provided within each chapter provides detailed specialist knowledge that will enable nurses to expand and enhance their understanding of the underlying problems and issues affecting the critically ill neonate and its family.

### Assessment

For those familiar with previous editions there are significant additions to this new version. Having used earlier editions in both clinical practice and as an educator I welcome the arrival of this easy to use updated edition with its carefully laid out chapters and 884 well referenced pages. However, the book could be enhanced by recent photographs and would benefit from some colour though this would impact on the price.

In summary, this is an extremely useful textbook that provides valuable information to nurses caring for neonates in a critical environment. I am confident that it will continue as the standard textbook for neonatal nurses and every neonatal unit and university nursing library should have a copy.

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