

Book Review

Advanced dental nursing

Ireland R, editor.

Edinburgh: Blackwell Munksgaard, 2004.

In response to changing legislation, requirements for continuing professional development and specialist nursing practice, Robert Ireland and colleagues, have produced *Advanced Dental Nursing*. This textbook is for dental nurses who wish to develop their clinical expertise and contains all the information they need in just one volume.

From the beginning the book reflects a multi-disciplinary approach with each chapter being written by a dentist and a dental nurse working in the specialist area described. The multi-disciplinary dimension of the volume does not stop there – in each chapter the importance of connecting and integrating with other health professionals, carers of people with learning disability and psychologists to assist in the behavioural management of the dentally phobic patient is highlighted. Various subsidiary themes, such as oral health education and communication are used to link and interweave theoretical and practical elements within each subject area. With the practical dimension of dental nursing emphasised each chapter is peppered with '*Recommended Tasks*' to allow readers to experience the relevance of the presented theory to their clinical work.

The first chapter concentrates upon career pathways, and although this is very much for the United Kingdom dental nurse this should not deter the international reader. The oral health promotion chapter, for instance, with its combination of technical World Health Organisation terms, theory and practice, is of relevance for all countries. Similarly, the chapter on special care dentistry provides a comprehensive description of the

various medical, psychological and social aspects of special needs and is couched in a framework of practicality and ethics. :

'The dentist's duty of care to the patient dictates that treatment planned will result in oral health gains and will be in the best interests of the patient'.

The management of the dentally anxious or phobic patient is described from the assessment of the patient to the provision of conscious sedation. The reader is provided with detailed accounts of applied physiology and anatomy, pharmacology, relative analgesia, intravenous and oral sedation, the practical aspects of monitoring and emergencies. Orthodontic dental nursing takes the reader through the relevant physiology and anatomy and links this with the clinical assessment of the patient while highlighting the importance of medico-legal aspects of orthodontic care. The final chapter is a vision for the future with the status of dental nursing being reflected in its high standards and clinical governance.

'*Advanced Dental Nursing*' provides the reader with information about future career choices, oral health promotion, special care dentistry, sedation and orthodontic dental nursing – in short – everything that the dental nurse needs to advance his/her career into specialist practice. This book will also be useful to dental tutors who wish to be involved in training and assessors who need to ensure that 'the dental nurse is competent in [his/her] area of work'. Dental nurses, tutors and assessors will find this book of immense value in advancing the career and status of dental nurses.

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