
This text is designed to meet the needs of the health-care professional providing home care to patients requiring respiratory care. This is a relatively new field with an expanding patient population. With changing technology and new products, professionals need a comprehensive text such as this. The first chapter details the physiologic basis for long-term oxygen therapy. The second chapter closely examines the workings of high-pressure cylinders, liquid oxygen systems, and concentrators. How to determine the proper oxygen system while complementing the patient’s lifestyle, and compliance and meeting the goals of the physician’s prescription are discussed.

A chapter on traveling with oxygen and enhancing mobility offers an abundance of practical information. A program of home apnea monitoring, discussion of sudden infant death syndrome and psychological aspects are also covered. Use of the nasal continuous positive airway pressure for sleep apnea is well covered, including pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management.

The chapter, “Adjunctive Respiratory Modalities and Techniques,” provides an overview of the more commonly used treatments, techniques, and equipment in use in home respiratory care. This includes patient and family teaching, ideas on follow-up care, routines, and self-help programs. A chapter on ventilator care at home outlines the major processes necessary to provide a successful discharge home. Assessments of the patient, caregivers, home, equipment selection and care, patient follow-up, and cost analyses are covered.

“Physiologic Aspects of Ventilator Dependence,” reviews the psychologic aspects of dyspnea and ventilator dependency, both acute and chronic. The author shares clinical experiences and home visits where standard psychiatric interviews assessed mental status, present and past coping, and presence of psychopathology. Special attention is paid to the issues of chronic illness and machine dependency.

“Psychosocial Readjustment and Community Services” looks at the many alterations in an individual with COPD’s lifestyle, emotional stability, social role, occupational status, body image, and sexuality. An overview of resources needed by the patient and government agencies, home care companies, and miscellaneous support services.

“Discharge Planning for the Respiratory Patient” examines the role of the discharge planner and utilizing the respiratory therapist in the process, and looks at the prospective payment system from both the patient’s and the medical-care provider’s point of view and a comprehensive planning approach. The final chapter addresses the impact of federal regulations, the effects of prospective payment systems, issues of fraud and abuse, and cost containment.

This text is well written, with a format that is organized, and all topics are well covered. I recommend this book to all disciplines who plan discharge and who provide equipment and direct home care services to clients with respiratory problems.

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My Parents Never Had Sex takes a positive view of the sexuality of older adults. It begins with a chapter on myths and facts of sexual aging. An underlying theme is that although sexuality certainly exists among older adults, its expression may differ from that of younger persons based on a variety of influences.

Cultural, religious, and societal influences, including prohibitions toward extramarital sex, homosexuality, and masturbation; male dominance;