

Cardiorespiratory Assessment of the Adult Patient: A clinician's guide. (Physiotherapist's Tool Box) [Spiral-bound]

Mary Ann Broad, Matthew Quint, Sandy Thomas, Paul Twose (Eds) 2012, Churchill Livingstone Elsevier, Edinburgh ISBN 9780702043451 RRP: Approx NZ\$60

Given all of the above, the book is a very useful addition to the cardiorespiratory physiotherapy genre and will make a good addition to the student/ junior physiotherapist's library, especially given its relatively low cost. I would recommend that all departments have a copy of this text that can be relatively easily accessed to help guide junior therapists through assessment of the patient with cardiorespiratory problems.

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This new textbook aims to give students and physiotherapists new to cardiorespiratory practice a simple and easy to use introduction to the assessment of patients with cardiorespiratory disorders. The first two chapters are short introductions to the scope of respiratory physiotherapy in different settings (Chapter 1) and assessment checklists that physiotherapists may use for the main clinical settings in which they will treat patients with cardiorespiratory problems (Chapter 2). Chapter 3 forms the main portion of the text and focuses on assessment tools/techniques that are presented alphabetically for ease of navigation. The book aims to give a simple, step-by-step explanation of exactly how each assessment technique should be performed and how to interpret the results of these. Each technique has a *definition* of the assessment procedure, an explanation of the *purpose* of the procedure, how to *perform* the procedure, consideration of the *findings* and how to *document* the results of each of the assessment findings. Chapter 4 attempts to integrate the assessment findings through three case scenarios across different settings and develop some basic problem solving and clinical reasoning skills.

Overall, the text is very easy to read and mostly easy to navigate through. Occasionally the alphabetical listing of the assessment tools is not entirely intuitive and some tools appear in more than one section e.g. central venous pressure is discussed under cardiac monitoring and under its own dedicated section; cross-referencing occurs to assist with the navigation of this. Additionally, some sections lack the specifics to actually perform a full test e.g. exercise testing but, usefully, include references for further reading. Also useful for students will be the scattering of 'Hot Tips' boxes throughout the text.

Some aspects of this first edition text would benefit from further editorial tweaking. For example, several charting sections are included in the text such as ICU, muscle grading and TPR charts. Many assessment tools included in these charts (e.g. pulse and respiratory status) have been discussed separately within the text. Thus, the inclusion of charts within the text appeared slightly incongruous compared with the more 'practical' aspects of the text. It is, however, useful to see the inclusion of assessment of neuromuscular aspects of assessment of patients with cardiorespiratory problems, such as reflex, dermatome and myotome assessment.

Aesthetically, I would also have liked each new assessment tool to commence on a new page with, perhaps, some space for readers/users to jot their own notes. This would also help with the quick navigation around the text that might be useful in the clinical situation. In addition, the summary page on normative values is a token gesture and could be much more extensive.