

Introduction to Obstetrics and Gynaecology—3RD EDITION

Cynthia Farquhar and Helen Roberts

Reviewed by **Jon Wilcox**, general practitioner, Glenfield, Auckland

This updated third edition is a 200-page handbook designed largely as an undergraduate manual for medical and midwifery students and also for medical graduates doing their diplomas in obstetrics and medical gynaecology. The second edition came out some 13 years ago and clearly medical science in O&G does change rapidly enough to demand the occasional update.

Important current topics which have been highlighted in this edition include prenatal screening, advances in pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, contraception, cervical screening technology, sexual health and newer surgical techniques.

It is an introductory textbook and, as such, would probably not have enough detail to be a big seller for general practitioners unless considering pursuing a diploma course. As might be expected, there is not much reference data and

none of the synoptic text is specifically referenced.

There are good, albeit brief, updated sections on foetal, pregnancy and synergistic endocrinology, a good update on early pregnancy loss and the important reclassification into non-viable and viable loss, a good selection of schematically value-added ultrasound images, a comprehensive section on the utilisation of ultrasound (earmarked to be the next exciting primary care technology), prenatal screening to include the application of NT and maternal serum screening protocols, several chapters on normal pregnancy, labour and the puerperium, neonatal care, the abnormal pregnancy (preterm labour and medical disorders of pregnancy), antepartum and postpartum bleeding, multiple pregnancy, obstetric interventions and an up-to-date section on infertility.

The gynaecology section includes chapters on contraception, therapeutic abor-

tion (medical and surgical), menstrual disorders, modern cervical screening and gynaecological neoplasia management, painful gynaecological disorders, gynaecological infections and STIs. There is a helpful small section on sexual difficulties and also prolapse and incontinence surgery and a short four-page chapter on the menopause.

While this handbook should not replace a good and perhaps appropriately more comprehensive text on obstetrics, gynaecology and women's health, at well under \$100 I feel it should be a very useful addition to the general practice library, albeit mainly perhaps for nursing staff, medical students and maybe for the expected influx of new GP registrars over the next few years.

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Health Care and the Law

Editor: Rebecca Keenan

Reviewed by **John Kennelly**, Senior Lecturer, Department of General Practice and Primary Health Care, The University of Auckland, Auckland

Health Care and the Law is written for health practitioners, risk managers, lawyers, educators and students. As a reference text, and with selective reading of this text, a health practitioner will gain insight into New Zealand health law. The book aims to give an overview of a wide range of medicolegal topics. It is inevitable that the book is compared to *Medical Law in New Zealand* (Brookers; 2006), a similar

book but with a greater academic focus and a narrower range of legal topics.

Health care law (synonymous with medical law) as a field of law has been variously described as a '...an established and thriving academic discipline' and 'a disjointed set of statutes and doctrines, designed mainly with nonmedical cases in mind', so the book is a welcome addition to an expanding repertoire for a field of

law seeking coherence. *Health Care and the Law* has a wide mix of legal topics including the legal system, regulation, rights, consent, information, medicines, contracts and employment, workers compensation and injury, coronial inquiries, public health and ethics. The book could not be said to suffer from the weakness of a 1958 health law text, described as an 'ungainly mixture of law and morals'. It is, however, an analysis of the mixture