

Book reviews

Sterilisation, Disinfection and Infection Control (3rd ed)

AF Gardiner & MM Peel

Churchill-Livingstone, Melbourne, 1998

In some respects I still feel like a new arrival, since every now and then I discover something else that is done differently here in Australia. The third edition of Gardiner and Peel's book on sterilisation and disinfection has been one of those discoveries. The book is not as well-known in Europe, unjustifiably so. For those, like me, who are not familiar with *Sterilisation, Disinfection and Infection Control*, it provides a comprehensive introduction to current methods in sterilisation and disinfection practice in our hospitals.

Chapters are for the most part organised around practical topics such as the efficiency of sterilisation, preparation and packaging for sterilisation, disinfection of living tissues, central sterilisation and disinfection services and the major disinfection techniques. The authors have approached the task of turning a rather dry subject into both a readable and comprehensive review with enthusiasm, managing to pepper the text throughout with the science underlying good sterilisation and disinfection practice. Use of diagrams, graphs and tables is liberal. These features make the book an ideal

resource for educators in infection control practice. What's more, many will find the comprehensive bibliography at the end of each chapter a good starting point for further reading on the subject.

For me, one of the most useful features of the book was its regular reference to Australian regulatory standards, something many infection control practitioners may already have discovered in earlier editions. The proof of the pudding, as they say, is in the eating – I used my copy to provide specific advice to our hospital engineers before I had even finished this review.

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Practical Approaches to Infection Control in Residential Aged Care

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Ausmed Publications

At last – an Australian text that looks at infection control in the aged-care setting. *Practical Approaches to Infection Control in Residential Aged Care* provides generic, comprehensive and practical information on infection control to those working within the aged and extended-care environment. Referenced to both national and Victorian legislation, the information could be transposed into any residential aged-care setting.

Commencing with an overview of infection control, the book deals with issues relating to staff, residents and the environment, together with information on general procedures and practices and common infections and infectious diseases. There are also examples and ideas for surveillance and continuous quality improvement activities that can be implemented in the extended care setting and could prove valuable to those involved in preparing their facility for aged-care accreditation.

Of interest, too, is a section on frequently asked questions for self-teaching of infection control, with the answers at the end of the book.

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