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**Book Review**

**Oxford Specialist Handbooks: Day Case Surgery**

*Edited by Ian Smith, Douglas McWhinnie and Ian Jackson*

Published by Oxford University Press


This is the must have book for rapid reference and guidance to all aspects of Day Case Surgery. By design, it is aimed at all stakeholders including surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses, allied health care professionals and trainees of all the aforementioned vocations. It will also prove an invaluable reference work for managers and administrators. Comprehensively, it covers all aspects of day and short stay surgical practice: ranging from its organisation to discharge of patients to and integration with primary care. This first edition follows the same successful style of the previously published Oxford Specialist Handbooks series. Topics included range from the organization of services to ambulatory anesthesia, surgery, peri operative nursing as well as teaching and training. The book is in the usual white coat pocket size format but in this instance lacks a hardwearing protective cover utilized by others in the same series.

The book is organised into 20 chapters which are broadly subdivided into background, history and organization issues, pre operative assessment and selection criteria, anesthesia and surgery, day care nursing, developing and evolving short stay services and teaching and training. Summarising the basic principles without excessive detail, subjects are clustered into manageable bite size sections sprinkled with gems of experience and expertise. The diagrams, figures and pictures are clear, well labelled and augment the pages of explanation and facts. Each chapter is well written and contains a succinct review of the area and is presented in an easy to read bullet point format. This allows the reader to cover topics quite rapidly. It is written by national and international experts in Ambulatory Surgery in a simple and well balanced format. The pictures are in black and white: the summary pages and figures are well laid out and attractively presented.

The book has a very broad appeal and delivers a common reference work for the whole multidisciplinary team. It summarizes and reviews subjects for the senior and experienced as well as providing an excellent revision aide to trainees. There is no doubt that it would also prove extremely useful for medical students and foundation year doctors as they contemplate career selection and sub specialist interests. At the end of each chapter there are the cardinal references listed for those who would like to investigate topics in greater depth.

Summarising the major anaesthetic and surgical procedures which are performed in the day surgery setting, it does not go into huge detail and assumes certain baseline knowledge. For example, the section on Gynaecology is brief and list like: this will prove helpful for examination preparation and information recall.

The later chapters which included ‘Pushing the Boundaries’, ‘Outcome Measures’, ‘Developing Day Surgery Units’, ‘Patient Safety’ and ‘Patient Experience’ will prove of great interest. They are not only relevant to the multidisciplinary short stay surgery team and their immediate management but will also prove a powerful resource for the nascent Clinical Commissioners from General Practice. They deliver great insight into these thorny topics and discuss quite sensitive issues such as outcome measures and patient safety which are so relevant to modern medical care in a risk averse society.

The editors are to be congratulated on delivering this valuable addition to the available literature.

I would highly recommend this book to all individuals involved in Day and Short Stay Surgery as well as having copies available in the units themselves.

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