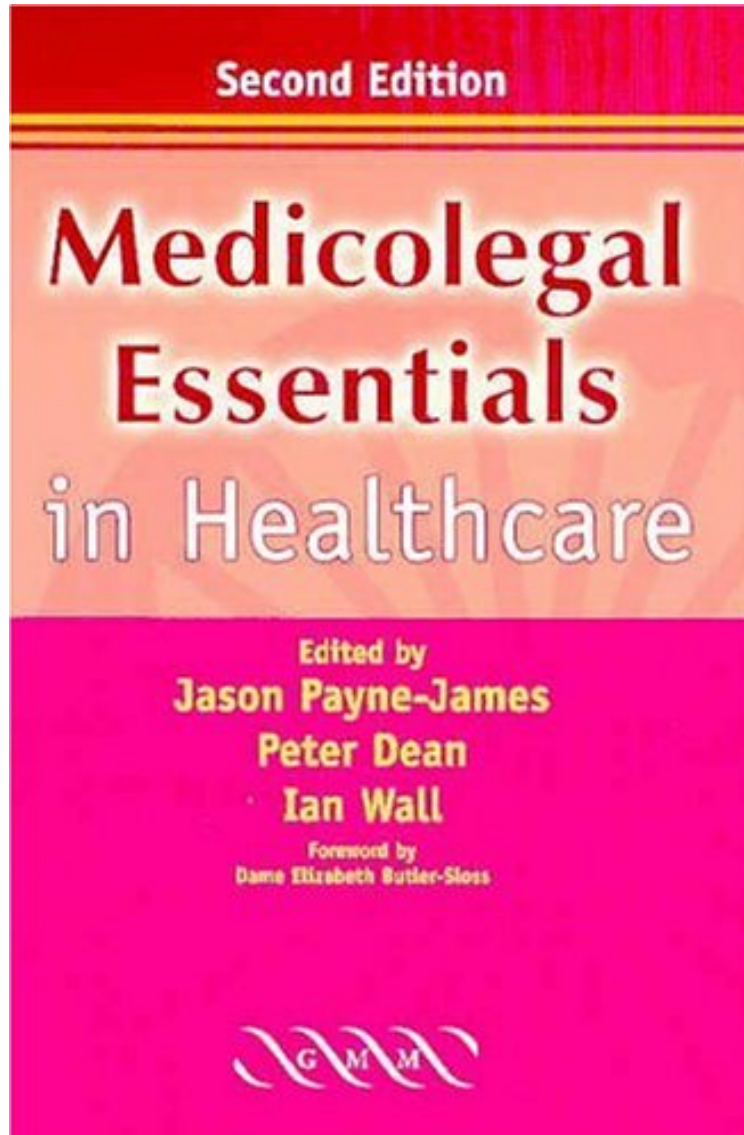


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Medicolegal Essentials in Healthcare

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From Brand: Greenwich Medical Media : Medicolegal Essentials in Healthcare before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Medicolegal Essentials in Healthcare:

Medicolegal Essentials in Healthcare provides a concise overview of the most clinically relevant medicolegal issues for healthcare groups in England and Wales, and is a valuable resource for medical, dental and nursing students in

training as well as being a useful quick reference for practitioners in these fields. Each chapter is written by a leading expert on the subject, and as such provides up-to-date, concise, and comprehensive coverage, identifying key areas of controversy and enabling readers to put contemporary medicolegal issues into their appropriate clinical context. Key features include: Focuses on issues of immediate relevance to healthcare professionals Chapters written by leading experts in the field A knowledge of medicolegal issues is of increasing importance to all healthcare professionals, as society generally becomes more litigious, and practitioners face the threat of legal claims against them

This is a quite splendid little book. A broad range of topics is covered in just 169 pages, and the editors have chosen an equally wide range of authors, all experts in their fields. However, a similarity of style allows the text to be free-flowing, and the reader is not immediately aware of a change of authors when moving between chapters. The scene is set by opening chapters on the courts and legal procedures, professional bodies and discipline and the process of complaints in the National Health Service. The following chapter on consent to treatment by Anthony Barton, both a solicitor and medical practitioner, is a masterpiece of clarity considering the complexity of the subject; the cases cited are of the highest relevance to an understanding of the contemporary legal position, into which the reader is given clear insight. Also especially worthy of note are the chapters on euthanasia and the Children Act 1989 by Diana Brahams and Allan Levy QC, respectively, both internationally respected authorities on their subject. Other subjects covered are confidentiality, the work of the coroner, the Mental Health Act 1983, living wills, organ transplantation, abortion and reproductive health. Medical negligence, the Medicines Act and HIV and the law. The final chapter by Christobel Saunders on all aspects of clinical trials is a further example of a difficult subject being treated with clarity and brevity, and yet with a sense of completeness: three attributes which are the hallmark of this book. All the authors are exceptionally well qualified in their own fields to contribute to this book. It is interesting to note a fair sprinkling of LL.Ms amongst the authors, and one wonders if the idea for the book arose during a quiet moment in the otherwise busy Cardiff curriculum! In summary, one can do no better than to quote from the foreword by Lady Justice Butler-Sloss 'a fascinating and comprehensive collection of the medicolegal aspects of life from birth It is increasingly important for those who are working in the health service to have a basic knowledge of the law and this is an excellent little book covering those legal issues that are most relevant to health care professionals. The style of writing is concise and very readable with each chapter written by an expert in the field. There is a clear explanation of legal procedures and the courts including a chapter on the various professional bodies who regulate the medical and nursing professions the General Medical Council and the United Kingdom Central Council. Legislation of particular relevance, the Mental Health Act 1983, the Children Act 1989 and the Medicines Act 1968 are described with the role of the Coroner discussed in some detail. This latter chapter is important as there is often doubt within the medical profession as to exactly which deaths are reportable. The topical subjects of euthanasia, living wills, organ donation, abortion and reproductive health are covered. Fundamental issues such as consent to treatment, medical negligence, confidentiality and the various complaints procedures, including the recommendations of the Wilson report each have a chapter. The discussion on consent considers the complex areas of withdrawal and refusal of treatment in adults and children. The law in the book is stated as of April 1996. This short text provides the 'Medicolegal Essentials' and I would recommend this book to doctors, nurses, social workers and others working with patients. It is a particularly useful reference for those studying for the Diploma of Medical Jurisprudence. This is the best review of this interesting theme that I have read, concise, never straying from the essentials, and impossible to put down. The book is well organised into separate chapters. Though there is no attempt to make one section logically follow the previous one, this is standard for a law book. Though they appear complicated at first sight, the chapters on 'Courts and professional discipline' and 'Consent to medical treatment' are exceptionally helpful. I work in a children's hospital and find the law on consent of minors confusing. Having read the book, I am much clearer, but it has not changed my practice - I still get consent before I anaesthetise my patients. This is a very up-to-date book, but it will inevitably age. However, the principles are so well covered that when the law moves on, it should be possible to follow the trail. Every junior should read this book, and possibly own one. It informs the reader but will not make him an expert. So buy it, but remember to keep up your own medical defence subscription!