

Book Review

Quick Reference for Pediatric Oncology Clinicians: The Psychiatric and Psychological Dimensions of Pediatric Cancer Symptom Management. Edited by Lori S. Wiener, Maryland Pao, Anne E. Kazak, Mary Jo Kupst, Andrea Farkas Patenaude, Jimmie C. Holland. IPOS Press, Charlottesville, VA, 2009. 354 pp. Price: \$35.00 (US) (spiral bound). ISBN 0-9785319-1-4. Available at <http://www.apos-society.org/>

The editors of this pocket-sized compendium have assembled a virtual Who's Who of pediatric psycho-oncology with superb results. Using a well-formatted, tightly written style replete with bullet points, useful tables, key references, general readings, and web sites, the 54 multidisciplinary contributors cover the full landscape of psychosocial issues routinely encountered when working with pediatric cancer patients and their families.

Beginning with Jimmie Holland's introduction and a wonderful developmentally focused section on how to talk with children and adolescents about key aspects of cancer and its treatment by Joanna Breyer, the book sets a tone for clear child-savvy communications. Other chapters address the range of malignancies encountered in childhood, hereditary cancer risks, and the full range of medical and symptomatic treatment including adherence, transplantation, control of side effects, pain, and the psychological needs of both pediatric patients and family members.

Particular highlights include a chapter on complementary and alternative treatments led by O. J. Sahler, a cluster of entries addressing cognitive sequelae of cancer treatment, school reintegration, and educational planning, and valuable material on survivorship issues including resources and information sources. Typical clinical

guides would overlook international or spiritual issues, but this collection does not. Most of us would not know where to begin finding out about visa requirements, international cultural dimensions, or the key spiritual issues confronted in the course of pediatric oncology work. This book also offers a great jump-start on test issues. Readers will find a handy list of assessment tools and thoughtful sections on palliative care and ethics. The editors seem to have thought of everything and have packed clear content on all the essentials into this easy-to-carry pocket compendium.

Experienced clinicians will find this book useful as a yardstick to assess their own knowledge and professional practice setting. Clinical service directors will want copies at the ready to provide a rapid orientation for new entrants into the pediatric oncology care arena, whether nurse, physician, psychologist, or social worker. It will provide both the essential core knowledge needed to deliver quality care, and a ready framework for making sure that the services offered to children and their families comport with best practices and quality standards.

The book provides an invaluable must-have reference for both medical and psychosocial professionals in pediatric oncology. It will not sit on the bookshelf gathering dust, but will more likely sit open on desktops and at the ready in clinicians' pockets.

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