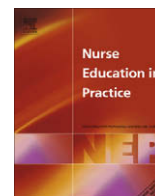


Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

Nurse Education in Practice

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/nepr

Book Review

Pharmacology: A Nursing Process Approach, sixth ed., (and accompanying study guide) J. Kee, E. Hayes, L. McCuistion. Saunders Elsevier, St. Louis (2009)

The complexity of the nurses' role in calculating, administering and monitoring drug effects are often, in my opinion, underestimated during clinical practice. Consequently, a comprehensive pharmacology book is an essential purchase for any student nurse navigating their way through their undergraduate education programme. When purchasing a pharmacology book for nurses, the choice of books available for students is immense and deciding on one over another is an arduous task. Pharmacology can present as a complicated subject and getting the balance right between providing suitable information about the biochemical processes involved and the clinical considerations for nurses is difficult to achieve.

Kee et al.'s (2009) *Pharmacology: a Nursing Process Approach*, now in its sixth edition and its accompanying workbook is an excellent choice of pharmacology textbook for any student undertaking a registration education programme. Although primarily aimed at students undertaking a generic nursing programme and written with mainly an American market in mind, potential purchasers should not be deterred by this. Furthermore, there is specific content in the book that is of use to mental health and intellectual disability nursing students although the majority of the book focuses on the pharmacological management of an array of physical illnesses. Students need to also bear in mind that some of the drug spellings and names, their doses and what they are licensed for may differ substantially between the United States and Ireland/Great Britain. The drug legislation presented is also American and although this can be useful background information students may find it confusing.

The book is divided into 19 units starting with an introduction to pharmacological concepts such as pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and drug administration. Each unit generally deals with a specific class of drug apart from a number of introductory chapters. Each chapter is written in a user friendly way and there are a

number of colourful diagrams and tables that are well labelled and clear. There are also numerous sources of additional information such as web links and textboxes entitled 'preventing medication errors' helping student not to confuse similar sounding drugs. Prototype drug charts offer specific information about a particular class of drug and give specific pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic information. There are also cultural considerations for the student adding to the comprehensive nature of the book. There is a good balance between these diagrams and the text and they are a good source of additional information and help the student to find their way through the often complex pharmacological concepts. There is a substantial section on drug calculations and there are lots of examples to practice with. The accompanying CD-Rom offers additional diagrams, pharmacology animations as well as additional examination review questions and drug calculation problems. The accompanying study guide offers more review questions as well as critical thinking questions.

Pharmacological interventions remain an integral component of the nurses' role and overall this is a welcome addition to the large selection of pharmacology textbooks available for nurses. It is generally well written with plenty of useful information, diagrams and tables that make for interesting reading. The book title suggests an emphasis on the nursing process related to pharmacology and each chapter does contain a section devoted to assessment etc. although this is relatively small in some chapters. As a teacher of pharmacology I found this book both relevant and contemporary. It is an excellent resource for students but they must be aware of the many differences between American and British/Irish prescribing and drug use.

Brian Keogh
Mental Health Nursing,
School of Nursing and Midwifery,
Trinity College, Dublin 2,
Ireland
Tel.: +353 1 896 3109; fax: +353 1608 3100
E-mail address: keoghbj@tcd.ie