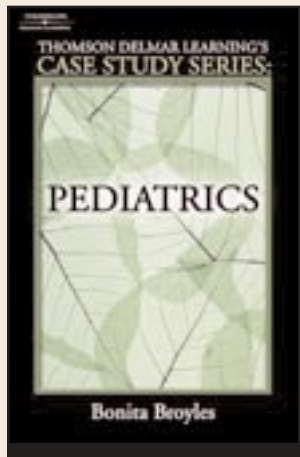


Thomson Delmar Learning's Case Study Series - Pediatrics



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By Bonita Broyles, RN, BSN, Ed.D.

As noted in the preface to this volume, the Thomson-Learning Case Study Series was created in an effort to help nurses "bridge the gap" between knowledge and clinical application. Simply, it's not enough for a nurse to be able to pass a test -- more importantly, they need to be able to apply that knowledge directly to the care of patients in pressure-packed environments.

Accordingly, Bonita Broyles' Pediatrics paints real life pictures ("case studies") and places the nurse smack-dab in the middle of the treatment room with a call to evaluate varied situations and provide appropriate remedies. The core-idea of this series is to re-enforce principles of critical thinking so that the nurse is able to use proper judgment in assessing a case and initiating treatment. Easy to say. But much more difficult to accomplish. However, Broyles' text comes with the specific purpose of teaching student-nurses to implement their scholastic training so as to

build confidence and refine technique -- the long-term goal here is to

insure that nurses are entering the workplace with complete skills that meet the unique challenges of today's hospital. Divided into 20 case studies that focus on the pediatric patient, Broyles puts the nurse in the midst of real-life dilemmas that require the nurse to take action. Each case study begins by setting the scene, and the nurse/reader is presented with various data (such as patient age, gender, ethnicity, applicable cultural considerations, pharmacological data, spiritual considerations), before presenting a factual summary of why the patient requires care. At this point, the reader is confronted with several questions of consideration which, when answered correctly, offer a "blue-print" to a suitable course of therapy. Each case study then closes with answers to the questions of consideration, thus allowing readers to immediately test their depth of knowledge. Aside from its pin-point writing and sharp organization, the best part of this text is that it forgoes the predilection to "lecture" (something so many medical texts fall prey to), instead dedicating its full focus to the practical world where patients are not names on paper but actual living breathing people whose lives lie in your hands. Consequently, if a nurse's judgment is in any way compromised, then the patient's chance of recovery will be significantly reduced.

Recommended as a teaching text in advanced nursing courses that test a student's ability to apply academic training to the hospital setting.

Reviewed By:
John Aiello,
The Electric Review