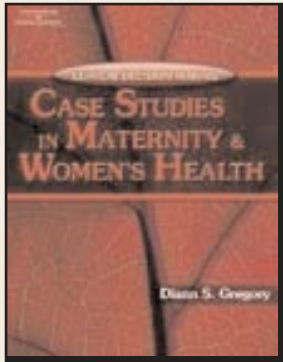


Clinical Decision Making: Case Studies in Maternity & Women's Health

By Diann S. Gregory, BSN, MEd, CNM



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Newly released from Thomson Delmar Learning, this text (written by Professor of Nursing Diann Gregory; Miami Dade College) is presented with unique focus and delicate precision: A text meant to "bridge the gap" between knowledge and the student's ability to apply that knowledge.

Nurses, more than any other health care personnel except Emergency Room specialists and trauma surgeons, are on the "front lines": With multiple demands flying at them at once, they must be able to make split second decisions that immediately impact the patient. A very demanding job indeed. Here, Gregory has structured a text meant to assist nurses in the making of clinical decisions that relate directly to women's health and to maternity-based cases. In this unique and practical series from

Thomson Delmar Learning, nurses are summoned to the "front lines" of the classroom and confronted with real life scenarios; the idea is to present a "case" study and then step back while the nurse assembles the myriad information and offers the proper care. The author writes: "Clinical Decision Making has been developed to provide the student with an opportunity to experience a wide range of clinical encounters in women's health. The case format provides the opportunity to move from theory to application. It provides instructors with a transitional tool to guide students into practice...[and] gives students the opportunity to utilize the nursing process in order to make decisions based on multiple variables..." As noted, the text is comprised of real life case studies in various areas of concentration, including Prenatal, Intrapartum, Newborns, Postpartum and Well-Woman health maintenance. In each case study (there are 44 in all), the reader is given a "blueprint" of variables (such as age, gender, pertinent health issues) to assess as they proceed toward appropriate patient care.

By ordering the material in this way, readers (students, nurses) are encouraged to use the knowledge they have learned in the classroom and apply it to a very real clinical situation. Gregory's ultimate lesson here is to show that the typical classroom is a sterile and completely controlled environment, while the hospital itself is a kinetic and unpredictable stage where anything can happen at any time.

REVIEWED BY:
John Aiello
Electric Review

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Accordingly, the best nurses think quick on their feet and are attentive to every fact and every last detail. The catch is that the only way for a student to learn these skills and how to adequately manage the needs of the patient is to dive into the fire and offer primary care. Clinical Decision Making by Diann Gregory gives them just that opportunity, marrying the walls of the classroom to the hospital maternity ward and then demanding the reader initiate an appropriate plan of action.

Recommended to instructors of nursing courses that test the student nurse's retention of material and the ability to transfer that knowledge to the care of the patient. The text by Gregory also comes in a more compact and streamlined version, one that offers 20 complete case studies rather than the aforementioned 44. The smaller version (ISBN 1-4018-2711-X) of the text is appropriate for use as a secondary class text in support of a more generalized manual on all aspects of nursing.

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