

2000 EDITION

FERRI'S

# CLINICAL ADVISOR

Instant Diagnosis and Treatment

Diseases and  
Disorders

Differential  
Diagnosis

Clinical  
Algorithms

Laboratory  
Evaluations

Preventive  
Guidelines

Facts and  
Formulas

Drug  
Comparisons

FRED F. FERRI

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# CLINICAL ADVISOR

**Instant Diagnosis and Treatment**

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*To*  
*MY FAMILY*  
*Their constant support and encouragement*  
*made this book a reality*

# Preface

This book is intended to be a clear and concise reference for the primary care physician. It is available in clinical text and CD-ROM format. Its user-friendly format was designed to provide a fast and efficient way to identify important clinical information and to provide practical guidance in patient management. The book is divided into seven sections, each with emphasis and clinical information useful to primary care physicians.

The tremendous success of the first edition and the enthusiastic comments from numerous colleagues have brought about several positive changes. Each section has been significantly expanded from the first edition, bringing the total number of medical topics covered in this book to over 1000. Illustrations have been added to several topics to enhance recollection of clinically important facts. A detailed table of contents facilitates identification and retrieval of topics. The addition of ICD-9-CM codes will expedite claims submission and reimbursement.

**Section I** covers 542 medical disorders of crucial importance to primary care physicians. Medical topics in this section are arranged alphabetically, and the material in each topic is presented in outline format for ease of retrieval. Key, quick-access information is consistently highlighted, and clinical photographs are used to further illustrate selected medical conditions. ICD-9-CM codes are included to expedite claims submission and reimbursement. References focus on current peer-reviewed journal articles rather than outdated textbooks and old review articles. Topics in this section use the following structured approach:

1. Basic Information (Definition, Synonyms, ICD-9-CM Codes, Epidemiology and Demographics, Physical Findings and Clinical Presentation, Etiology)
2. Diagnosis (Differential Diagnosis, Workup, Laboratory Tests, Imaging Studies)
3. Treatment (Nonpharmacologic Therapy, Acute General Rx, Chronic Rx, Disposition, Referral)
4. Pearls and Considerations (Comments, References)

**Section II** consists of the differential diagnosis, etiology, and classification of nearly 300 signs and symptoms. This is a practical section that allows the user investigating a physical complaint or abnormal laboratory value to follow a “workup” leading to a diagnosis. The physician then can easily look up the presumptive diagnosis in Section I for the information specific to that illness.

**Section III** provides over 130 clinical algorithms to guide and expedite the patient’s workup and therapy. This section is particularly valuable in today’s managed care environment.

**Section IV** includes normal laboratory values and interpretation of results of over 180 commonly ordered laboratory tests. By providing interpretation of abnormal results, this section facilitates the diagnosis of medical disorders and further adds to the comprehensive, “one stop” nature of our text.

**Section V** focuses on preventive medicine and offers essential guidelines from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Information in this section on clinical preventive services includes recommendations for the periodic health examination, screening for major diseases and disorders, patient counseling, and immunization and chemoprophylaxis recommendations.

**Section VI** emphasizes the practical features of patient management by providing extensive sections on disease prevention, patient evaluation, nutrition, growth and development, and emergency medicine. Medical tables, graphs, and formulas are used extensively to simplify difficult topics and enhance recollection of principal points.

**Section VII** consists of medication comparison tables covering hundreds of commonly prescribed medications. This section facilitates the use of cost-

effective medications by comparing the cost of similar medications and illustrating significant differences among medications in the same therapeutic class.

As practicing physicians, we all realize the importance of patient education and the need for clear communication with our patients. Toward that end, we have included on a companion CD-ROM easy-to-use, practical patient instruction sheets, organized alphabetically and covering the majority of the topics in this book. These patient teaching guides (PTGs) are available in English and Spanish. They are a valuable addition to patient care and useful to improve physician-patient communication, patient satisfaction, and quality of care. For ease of identification, each clinical topic in Section I

of the book with a corresponding patient teaching guide on the CD is marked with “(PTG)” after the topic name, at the top of the page in the book. In addition, the cross-references to the CD are included in the table of contents.

I strongly believe that we have produced a state of the art information system with significant differences from existing texts. I hope that its user-friendly approach, its numerous unique features, and yearly updates will make our book and CD-ROM valuable medical references not only to primary care physicians, but also to physicians in other specialties, medical students, and allied health professionals.

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CLINICAL  
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