# CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY AND NURSING



CHAROLD L. BAER BRADLEY R. WILLIAMS

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SPRINGHOUSE PUBLISHING COMPANY Springhouse Corporation Springhouse, Pennsylvania

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Clinical pharmacology and nursing. Includes bibliographies and index.

 Pharmacology.
 Williams, Bradley R. Nursing. I. Baer, Charold Lee Morris, 1946. 11.

[DNLM: 1. Drug Therapy—nurses' instruction. 2. Pharmacology, Clinical—nurses' instruction. QV 38 C6413] RM301.C53 1988 615'.1 87-26744

ISBN 0-87434-137-X

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## **PREFACE**

Medication therapy is an essential component of health care today. Indeed, most patients receive a number of different types of medications several times a day. Thus, dealing with medication therapy constitutes a major portion of the nurse's activities. Specifically, the nurse is directly responsible for:

- knowing the pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic, and pharmacotherapeutic information about each drug that the patient receives
- using appropriate procedures and techniques to administer various medications
- using appropriate safeguards to prevent errors during medication administration
- assessing the patient's clinical responses to medication therapy, including observing for adverse reactions
- documenting the patient's clinical responses to medication therapy.

These activities require an extensive pharmacologic knowledge base and familiarity with a growing number of references and other resources. Clinical Pharmacology and Nursing was designed to meet both of those requirements: it can be used by the student nurse in a basic pharmacology course and in subsequent clinical courses; it is also a general reference book for the practicing clinician.

One of the major needs for students of basic clinical pharmacology is an appropriate conceptual framework that organizes the information for clinical application. This text provides such a framework. Unit I gives an overview of pharmacology. Unit II relates medication therapy to the nursing process and provides the context for the clinical application of the content. Units III through XVII present specific drug classes used in providing patient care. Consistently structured, these units present essential pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic, pharmacotherapeutic, and adverse drug reaction information. Additionally, each drug class includes:

- contraindications and precautions
- techniques for preventing and treating adverse reactions
- essential specific interventions
- proper drug preparation and administration techniques
- patient education information.

Numerous graphs, illustrations, and summary charts facilitate learning.

This text exists to provide students and clinicians with essential pharmacologic principles and data for patient care. Therefore, all contributors are at least master's degree—prepared, practicing clinicians, academicians, or pharmacologists. These experts represent the various specialty areas of nursing and pharmacology, providing the most current, accurate, and clinically applicable information. Their collective efforts have produced a resource that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Charold L. Baer Bradley R. Williams

# **FOREWORD**

At last, a publisher has produced an unusually comprehensive and readable textbook on pharmacology for student nurses, nursing educators, and clinical nurses. Clinical Pharmacology and Nursing is a welcome choice among today's pharmacologic nursing textbooks. It stands out as a text and reference that organizes relevant scientific content into conceptual frameworks with related information for clinical application. Organizing vast amounts of information in a clear format streamlines learning and makes it enjoyable. An impressive group of specialists in nursing and pharmacology is represented in the book's 76 contributing authors and 53 clinical reviewers; these experts ensure accurate, current, complete, and clinically applicable content. Moreover, the authors have related details on specific drugs to a broad base of pharmacologic concepts and perspectives, thereby enhancing student understanding and application of information and providing faculty with organized approaches for teaching. The book is an indispensable text for a basic pharmacology course and for more advanced clinical courses and practice.

Clinical Pharmacology and Nursing successfully combines pharmacology theory and clinical application. Pharmacologic theory is presented through general pharmacologic principles, including pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, pharmacotherapeutics, toxicity and poisoning, and drug abuse, dependence, and addiction. A conceptual framework controls the presentation. Clinical application details pharmacologic products that treat, control, and prevent disorders in individuals across the life span including pediatric, young and mid-life, pregnant, lactating, and geriatric patients. Medication therapy in emergency situations also is covered.

Overview chapters are organized by the nursing process, and that process is reflected, when applicable, in the drug classification chapters. These describe assessment data, intervention strategies, drugs' interactions and effects, and nursing implications. Nursing responsibilities are outlined clearly for the drug selected; its mechanism of action; predictable patient reactions; method of administration; signs of dependence, overdose, or toxicity; steps in the event of an untoward reaction; and patient and family education. "Readerfriendly" information in this classic textbook makes difficult decisions easier.

The student's study and learning needs also have been given full consideration. Theory, interwoven throughout, helps establish and reinforce a strong conceptual foundation. Each chapter offers learning objectives and summaries and includes graphics, charts, and tables that summarize drug information, illustrate procedures, and succinctly explain complicated pharmacodynamics and physiology. The two-color design enhances the presentation. The 17 unit introductions provide overviews for the drugs covered, including necessary anatomy and physiology and a glossary of terms. The comprehensive index aids the student in easily locating general information and generic and brand-name drugs.

Although each chapter is a valuable reference and may be read as an independent selection, the book's organization sequences and reinforces learning. For example, an overview of the fundamental principles of pharmacology is presented in the first 6 chapters (Unit One). Unit Two, containing 10 chapters, presents the principles and applications of pharmacology in the context of the nursing process. The 15 other units, including chapters 17 to 82, use a format that includes drug class, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, pharmacotherapeutics, adverse drug reactions, nursing implications, and a chapter summary. So much important information gives the reader a sense of security in its ownership.

Drug therapy is a major part of health care practice today, and the nurse is the major provider in the administration of this therapy. Given the dynamic nature of biomedical knowledge and technology and the extensive and growing knowledge base in clinical pharmacology, the nurse is challenged to remain up to date in medication therapy. Yet, how can the student and the practicing nurse exercise informed nursing judgments and provide safe, high-quality care? One way is to draw on resources like *Clinical Pharmacology and Nursing*. It is the newest and finest authoritative reference in its field for nursing students, faculty, and clinical nurses. No nurse should practice without it.

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