



Nan H. Troiano Carol J. Harvey Bonnie Flood Chez

HIGH-RISK & CRITICAL CARE OBSTETRICS

Third Edition



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AWHONN

*Association of Women's Health,
Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses*



HIGH-RISK & CRITICAL CARE OBSTETRICS

Third Edition

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HIGH-RISK & CRITICAL CARE OBSTETRICS

Third Edition

*To my mother, Bonnie Lee Chappell Hamner; to my
brother, Philip David Hamner; and in loving memory
of my father, Harold Max Hamner. Finally, to Bogart,
my companion throughout, and Bacall.*

—Nan H. Troiano

*In loving memory of my parents, Mildred and
Richard Harvey; to my husband, Scott Sneed;
and to my sisters by birth and by choice.*

—Carol J. Harvey

*To my dad, Dr. William A. Flood;
and to my George and Semi.*

—Bonnie Flood Chez

PREFACE

Since publication of the second edition of this text in 1999, we continue to appreciate the challenges and rewards associated with providing care to this unique patient population. Time has granted us the benefit of a rapidly expanding knowledge base derived from ongoing research and clinical experience related to the care of pregnant women who experience significant complications or become critically ill during pregnancy. Time has also gifted us with an appreciation for the value of advanced practice collaboration among clinicians who care for these women and their families. Therefore, this edition includes extensive revisions that reflect evidence-based changes in clinical practice for specific complications, and new chapters have been added that address foundations for practice, adjuncts for clinical practice, and selected clinical guidelines.

One of the most challenging aspects of perinatal care continues to be meeting the clinical and psychosocial health care needs of an increasingly diverse obstetric patient population. A general overview of today's obstetric population depicts women who, in general, are older, larger in body habitus, more likely to have existing comorbid disease, more prone to high-order multiple gestations, known to have an increased incidence of operative intervention, less likely to attempt vaginal birth after a previous Cesarean birth, apt to have high expectations for care in terms of outcomes, and predisposed to complex clinical situations that may generate ethical issues related to their care.

It remains true that most pregnant women are without identified complications and proceed through pregnancy, labor, delivery, and the postpartum period without problems. Accordingly, obstetric care remains based on a wellness-oriented foundation. However, maternal mortality remains unacceptably high and there has been a renewed commitment to addressing this problem. Significant complications may develop at any time during pregnancy without regard for a woman's *identified* risk status. Unfortunately, this very phrase has evolved into being synonymous with labels such as *high risk* or *at risk*. However, we believe that use of such terms to designate levels of risk should be appreciated as being reasonably imprecise and nonspecific. We should avoid any suggestion that categorical boundaries exist for patients or for the clinicians who care for them. For example, there are women who manifest medical conditions during pregnancy who, absent appropriate recognition and management, may be more prone to adverse obstetric outcomes. However, it is

also recognized that this same population of pregnant women may, with appropriate management, experience no adverse perinatal outcomes above those of the general population.

Further, providing care to this unique population and their families within our evolving health care delivery system presents additional challenges to us as a society. Efforts to reform health care continue to attempt to address the concepts of accessibility, affordability, quality, responsibility, safety, and cost-effectiveness. Debate will no doubt continue regarding what is the best way to achieve reform measures.

This edition is reflective of these and other associated challenges. However, the most significant intent of the format of this text is to promote appreciation for the importance of a collaborative approach to the care of this specific obstetric population. Therefore, for the first time, most chapters are co-authored by nurse and physician experts in their respective areas of practice.

The first section is devoted to discussion of foundations for practice. It includes an overview of the state of our specialty, the importance of collaboration in clinical practice, and the complexities of practice that often include ethical dilemmas that must be considered in the overall care of the patient and her family.

The second section presents information on adjuncts often used in the clinical care of this patient population. We hope that this information proves useful for clinicians caring for obstetric patients with significant complications or who are critically ill during the intrapartum setting, as well as for those who provide consultation for such patients on other services. The third section presents comprehensive critical concepts and current evidence-based information regarding specific clinical entities in obstetric practice. The fourth section includes practice resources in the form of clinical guidelines, in an attempt to provide clinicians with references and tools to optimize clinical care of this special obstetric population.

On a personal note, we the editors feel that it is important to acknowledge that the evolution of this text over the past several years reflects the reality of accommodating to changes and challenges in our paths, much like the population of women for whom we provide care and our colleagues who care for them. We all have our personal stories. The interval between publication of the second and third editions bears witness to personal and professional stories for us all. During this period of time, we have: celebrated years of remission from breast cancer; finished 60-mile Komen Foundation walks in Washington, DC, and

Boston; lost beloved members of our family; grieved the loss of 10 precious pets; supported co-authors with professional and family tragedies and triumphs; changed jobs; endured the economy; found new love; gained energy and renewal because of the support of family and friends, and navigated significant challenges in order to bring this project to completion.

We are grateful for the overwhelmingly positive feedback from those who have read previous editions

and provided us with direction to take this third edition to the next level. We are in debt to the wonderful group of contributing authors for sharing their special expertise and time. It has been an honor to work with these colleagues, AWHONN, and Lippincott Williams & Wilkins on this project.

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We have also been privileged to participate in perinatal education programs and consulting opportunities throughout the United States and other countries. We appreciate that this demonstration of commitment to education, clinical practice, and research represents our best hope for collectively advocating for safe and effective perinatal care. Ultimately, it represents the foundation for true “collaboration” in practice. It also reminds us that we have made friends with, listened to, and benefitted from the wisdom of those who are on the “front lines” every day. These networking opportunities have resulted in deep and lasting relationships that are part of the very fabric of this book.

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