
THIRD EDITION

CLINICAL DRUG THERAPY

RATIONALES

FOR

NURSING

PRACTICE

ANNE COLLINS ABRAMS

J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY

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Rationales for Nursing Practice

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CIP

Any procedure or practice described in this book should be applied by the health-care practitioner under appropriate supervision in accordance with professional standards of care used with regard to the unique circumstances that apply in each practice situation. Care has been taken to confirm the accuracy of information presented and to describe generally accepted practices. However, the authors, editors, and publisher cannot accept any responsibility for errors or omissions or for any consequences from application of the information in this book and make no warranty, express or implied, with respect to the contents of the book.

Every effort has been made to ensure drug selections and dosages are in accordance with current recommendations and practice. Because of ongoing research, changes in government regulations and the constant flow of information on drug therapy, reactions and interactions, the reader is cautioned to check the package insert for each drug for indications, dosages, warnings and precautions, particularly if the drug is new or infrequently used.



CLINICAL DRUG THERAPY

Rationales for
Nursing Practice

To my husband, Bob, and my son, Steve, with much appreciation for their encouragement and support

To nursing faculty and students, who continue to struggle with an ever-expanding knowledge base in their efforts to provide high-quality nursing care

PREFACE

The overall purpose of this edition of *Clinical Drug Therapy: Rationales for Nursing Practice*, as with the previous editions, is to promote rational, safe, and effective drug therapy. The author strongly believes that the study of drugs is important to nurses primarily in relation to drug effects on people. Thus, safe and effective drug therapy requires knowledge about both the drug and the person receiving it. Other beliefs and assumptions include the following:

- Knowledge and understanding of drug effects on people allow the nurse to predict both therapeutic and adverse effects of drug therapy.
- Therapeutic effects can be enhanced by nursing interventions.
- Adverse effects may be prevented or minimized by nursing interventions.
- If effective, non-drug-related interventions are generally safer than drug therapy.
- All drugs may cause adverse effects.
- Nursing responsibility includes observation of client responses to drug therapy and teaching clients about drug therapy, as well as accurate administration of drugs.

With these beliefs in mind, all chapters have been thoroughly reviewed and most have been extensively revised to reflect newer drugs and current usage of older drugs. In addition, nursing process content has been greatly expanded and reorganized to emphasize the importance of the nursing process in drug therapy as in other aspects of nursing practice. Other important changes are additional guidelines for using drugs in children and older adults and revision of Chapter 67 to provide a comprehensive view of drug effects during pregnancy and lactation. Features especially liked by reviewers have been retained. These include the chapters of physiology review and the Principles of Therapy and Nursing Actions/Rationale portions of most chapters.

As in the previous editions, the book has ten sections. The first

section provides an overview of the basic knowledge and skills needed for safe and effective drug therapy. Topics include drug effects on body tissues, methods of drug administration, and the nursing process in relation to drug therapy. In subsequent sections, drugs are categorized mainly according to their therapeutic effects on particular body systems. Also, separate sections discuss nutritional products, drugs used in prevention and treatment of infections, and drugs used in specific situations such as neoplastic disease, ophthalmic, and dermatologic disorders. Most sections begin with a brief chapter that reviews the physiology of a body system; other chapters discuss drugs used to treat various disorders of that body system.

Individual chapters begin with a description of a condition for which a drug group is used. This is followed by a general description of a drug group, including mechanisms of action, indications for use, and contraindications. Next, monographs of individual drugs are listed, with dosages for adults and children and routes of administration. Additional clinically relevant information is presented under the headings of Nursing Process, Principles of Therapy, and Nursing Actions. Nursing Process includes assessment of the client's condition in relation to the drug group, nursing diagnoses, expected outcomes in terms of client characteristics, interventions and teaching indicated, and evaluation of the client's progress toward expected outcomes. Principles of Therapy provide guidelines for rational choices of drugs, dosages, and routes of administration as well as using the drugs in specific populations. Once a drug has been ordered, Nursing Actions state specific nursing responsibilities within the following five general categories: Administer Drugs Accurately, Observe for Therapeutic Effects, Observe for Adverse Effects, Observe for Drug Interactions, and Teach Clients. A unique feature of *Clinical Drug Therapy* remains the inclusion of rationales for nursing actions, the purpose of which is to provide a strong knowledge base and scientific foundation.

Anne Collins Abrams,
R.N., B.S.N., M.S.N.

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CLINICAL DRUG THERAPY

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