



Essentials of Clinical Geriatrics

FOURTH EDITION

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Fourth Edition

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Fourth Edition

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PREFACE

The world of geriatrics has changed substantially since we wrote the first edition of this book, but the same goals still pertain. This book is intended to provide an overview and an introduction to the elements of the care of older persons. It is not intended to supplant a textbook in medicine. Rather, it emphasizes those aspects of care that are not usually well addressed in such books. This book is designed to be useful to practitioners at various levels of training. We continue to rely heavily on tables and figures to summarize information. We are proud that many educators have told us that they use these illustrations for their own presentations.

We have reorganized this edition of the book to reflect the changes in emphasis. The material on iatrogenesis has been combined with the expanded and substantially revised work on clinical expectations. Long-term care has been expanded to become health services. The chapter on temperature regulation has been combined with vitality. The chapter on ethical issues has been restored and expanded.

We have updated almost all areas. While there have been notable clinical advances in areas such as osteoporosis, the treatment of dementia and cardiac care, the greatest changes continue to occur in the way services are organized. Managed care has become a significant force on the aging scene. It is not yet clear whether it will achieve

anything close to its potential to support the establishment of a chronic care approach. Long-term care has diversified. We are beginning to recognize the need for a more fundamental revolution in the way we practice medicine. The dominant model, which has been based on an acute care paradigm, must yield to a new model that responds to the overwhelming prevalence of chronic disease. This transition implies a need to develop models of care that address extended episodes rather than discrete events. We need to think in terms of investments in care that will prevent or delay exacerbations. Management and function gain take precedence over eliminating disease or avoiding death. The medical and social aspects of care must be synergized.

Essentials of Clinical Geriatrics

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