

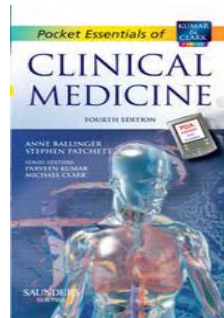


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Book Reviews: General Medicine

- **Pocket Essentials of Clinical Medicine**
Anne Ballinger, Stephen Patchett

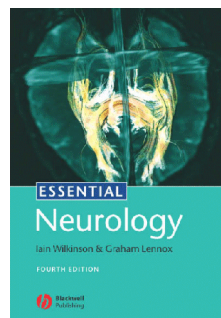
Reviewer: Avais Jabbar
Final Year Medical Student
Barts & London School of
Medicine & Dentistry



This is the pocket size version of Kumar and Clark's Clinical Medicine although I do not agree this is pocket size. Throughout medical school there is a different preference amongst medical students when comparing this to the Oxford Handbook. This book doesn't replace the Oxford Handbook but rather compliments it. Although the Oxford Handbook is good for facts, one advantage of Pocket Essentials is it gives more background to pathology, as well as a scientific explanation, and is therefore easier to get a fundamental overview. As a final year student, I'm using this more often than the Oxford Handbook but do refer to the Handbook for certain disorders that aren't described in sufficient detail. An excellent addition to the fourth edition is the new chapter on pharmacology which is very useful for developing a better understanding of the common drugs for each system. This is also very useful for junior doctors who would like to develop a better understanding of therapeutics.

- **Essential Neurology**
Iain Wilkinson, Graham Lennox

Reviewer: Avais Jabbar
Final Year Medical Student
Barts & London School of
Medicine & Dentistry



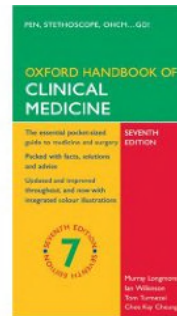
As a student, I found very few texts that were concise enough during my fourth year neurology placement. Thankfully my consultant recommended this book due to his view that it is to the point and up to date with current neurological management. Overall, this is an excellent read particularly for those students who have struggled with neurology throughout medical school. Particular chapters I found excellent included: clinical skills and anatomy, stroke medicine, brain tumours, cranial nerve disorders, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy and multiple sclerosis. Other useful chapters include: paraplegia, headache and facial pain, motor neurone disease and muscular disorders, infection of the CNS and unconsciousness. Another important feature is the clinical cases and self-assessment questions at the end of each chapter. Model answers are provided at the back. This is also an invaluable source for hospital doctors, general practitioners and other healthcare professionals who are routinely involved in the management of neurological cases.



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- **Oxford Handbook of Clinical Medicine**
Murray Longmore and Ian Wilkinson

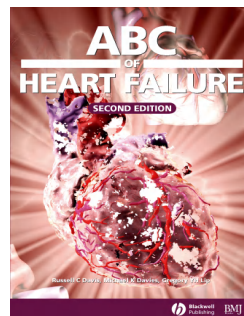
Reviewer: Dr Asim Safdar
GP Registrar



This is the must-buy and ever popular classic for the clinical years. I first had the 4th edition and have replaced it with subsequent editions. It has a mammoth amount of information and has stood me in good stead from my early medical school years to life as a medical SHO and a GP. There is now also a baby version! Developed over 21 years, the Handbook encompasses the experience, knowledge and wisdom of more than 10 different authors. The 7th edition is fully equipped for the modern doctor with a brand new design and integrated full-colour pictures on common problems such as rashes, scars and jaundice. There is new information on consent and how to handle common calls, a new chapter on radiology, new ALS guidelines and a greater coverage of medications and doses, clinical skills and surgery. This book will prove invaluable to the new house officer, the medical student on general medical wards and the medical senior house officer on acute medical on-calls. The red section at the back on emergencies is particularly useful for finals revision. All in all it is an indispensable text throughout one's career.

- **ABC of Heart Failure**
Russell Davis,
Michael Davies, et al

Reviewer: Adeel Iqbal
4th Year Medical Student
Imperial College, London



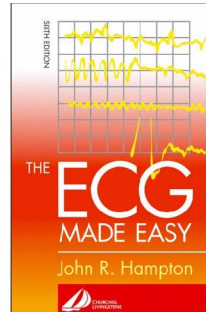
This new edition of the *ABC of Heart Failure* provides coherent and concise information relating to the epidemiology, pathophysiology and clinical features, aiding the diagnosis and treatment of this life threatening condition. Fully updated to cover all the latest advances, the *ABC of Heart Failure* is an invaluable reference for general practitioners, hospital doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals involved in the treatment and prevention of heart failure. The whole series is similar to the crash course series in the sense that it conveys enough information to gain a gist of the subject area and has good direction to follow for further information. Useful for students of cardiovascular sciences or for a read before a medical cardiology firm.



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- **The ECG Made Easy**
John Hampton

Reviewer: Adeel Iqbal
4th Year Medical Student
Imperial College, London



One of the most popular introductory texts on this subject. All the basic concepts for understanding this topic are included, though there could be more emphasis on possible areas of confusion; such as the difference between 'leads' and 'wires'. This book also suffers from only being pocket sized and having pocket sized tracings, and on pages that depict limb and chest leads the layout could be improved to show that they are separate groups. For a newcomer to this subject you may not find it all that easy, as the explanations may need some practical demonstrations from an accomplished teacher with topics such as the cardiac axis. However this book does avoid the jargon and physiology that can be off putting in most other introductory texts. If this book leaves you with further questions, you would probably also need and indeed benefit from the author's two other titles 'The ECG in practice' and '100 ECG problems'. This would enable you to improve your skills of interpretation, and the three titles bought over time would provide an adequate inexpensive reference shelf for most health care workers. The ECG is never easy to understand for beginners, but this book does at least try. This book is good for preclinical and clinical students as well as those on a cardiovascular BSc.

We would welcome your book reviews under this subject area.
Please email these as a MS Word file to info@muslimdoctors.org.