

Neonatal Respiratory Care

Handbook

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This book is dedicated to my daughter, Delisie, who turned out to be a wonderful, funny comedienne; to Moma, Lola, and Misty, my furry companions; to my family, who has always been in my corner; to my neighbor, Vanessa, who has been a source of encouragement throughout this project; to my mentor, Dr. Felecia Moore Banks, who paved the path for this project; and to my colleagues at the University of the District of Columbia, who have been my cheering squad. I could not have done this book without you.

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"Let us dare to read, think, speak and write."

John Adams, 1765

When considering what type of book to write, my mind flooded with the great torrent of knowledge already available on the subject of neonatal and pediatric respiratory care. As I continued to reflect on the everyday job of a respiratory therapist in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) or a pediatric intensive unit (PICU), it occurred to me that a concise guidebook that actually provides both illustrations and text on how to assemble some of the most complex respiratory equipment *and* includes explanations for the purpose of this equipment would be beneficial to a respiratory therapist. There are a number of books on respiratory therapy equipment and even more books on the pathophysiology and management of the neonatal and pediatric patient; this book does not attempt to replace any of those books. This little respiratory compilation is a handy pocket-size guidebook, one that is easy to understand, with an excellent display of images, designed with the new respiratory therapist or the respiratory student in mind.

My goal is to share with the reader my experience in the NICU and PICU, where it is necessary to understand the array of equipment that has been developed for this patient population. In the NICU and PICU world, we learn quickly how to adapt this equipment to the neonate or pediatric patient. Of recent years, manufacturers have been more responsive to those of us who work in these areas: there has been a proliferation of equipment designed just for the neonate and the pediatric patient. Having said this, it becomes an ongoing challenge for educators, whether in academia or the hospitals, to keep up with the maze of available equipment and to be able to ensure competency of each student or new graduate respiratory therapist. This task can sometimes be overwhelming; thus this book will be a welcome addition to an educator regardless of the setting. It is my desire that a new respiratory therapist graduate will use this book as a reminder of how to set up equipment in the NICU and

PICU and that this book will enable the respiratory therapist to become more proficient in the NICU and PICU areas. I might add that this book is not designed to be a substitute for an actual orientation or a class on neonatal/pediatric respiratory care but will simply add to the respiratory therapist's current knowledge base.

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