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Pharmacology For Nursing Care
A favorite among nursing students, Pharmacology for Nursing Care, 8th Edition, features a uniquely engaging writing style, clear explanations, and unmatched clinical precision and currency to help you gain a solid understanding of key drugs and their implications -- as opposed to just memorization of certain facts. Compelling features such as a drug prototype approach, use of large and small print to distinguish need-to-know versus nice-to-know content, and a focus on major nursing implications save you study time by directing your attention on the most important, need-to-know information. The new edition also features an abundance of content updates to keep you ahead of the curve in school and in professional practice. UNIQUE! Engaging writing style with clear explanations makes content easy to grasp and even enjoyable to learn. A drug prototype approach uses one drug within each drug family to characterize all members of its group to help you learn about related drugs currently on the market and drugs that will be released once you begin practice. UNIQUE! Special Interest Topic boxes address timely issues in pharmacology and connect pharmacology content with current trends. Large print/small print design distinguishes essential "need-to-know" information from "nice-to-know" information. Limited discussion of adverse effects and drug interactions keeps your limited study time focused on only the most clinically important information. Reliance on up-to-date evidence-based clinical guidelines ensures that therapeutic uses are clinically relevant. Integrated and summarized nursing content demonstrates the vital interplay between drug therapy and nursing care. Coverage of dietary supplements and herbal interactions equips you to alert patients and caregivers to the potential dangers of certain dietary supplements, including interactions with prescribed and over-the-counter drugs and herbal therapies. Additional learning features provide a touchstone for study and review as you complete reading assignments and build a foundation of pharmacologic knowledge. Updated drug content and related nursing content reflect the very latest FDA drug approvals, withdrawals, and evidence-based therapeutic uses. Expanded and updated content on medication safety prepares you to pass the NCLEX Examination and practice safe medication administration in the clinical setting. Expanded coverage of pharmacogenomics introduces you to the many different genetic factors that influence drug therapy. New information on electronic prescribing primes you for nursing practice in the 21st century, as electronic prescribing systems become more common in the clinical setting. Updated coverage of evidence-based clinical treatment guidelines, particularly those for cholesterol and diabetes management, promotes evidence-based practice in nursing pharmacology. New chapter (Chapter 39) on nicotine and tobacco abuse highlights our growing understanding of the unique addictive properties of nicotine and the nursing considerations for helping patients improve their
health through smoking cessation. Canadian drug names are now included and highlighted with a maple leaf icon to familiarize U.S readers with other trade names they may see and to make the book more useful for Canadian students. I. INTRODUCTION

1. Orientation to Pharmacology
2. Application of Pharmacology in Nursing Practice
3. Drug Regulation, Development, Names, and Information

II. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PHARMACOLOGY

4. Pharmacokinetics
5. Pharmacodynamics
6. Drug Interactions
7. Adverse Drug Reactions and Medication Errors
8. Individual Variation in Drug Responses

III. DRUG THERAPY ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

9. Drug Therapy During Pregnancy and Breast-Feeding
10. Drug Therapy in Pediatric Patients
11. Drug Therapy in Geriatric Patients

IV. PERIPHERAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DRUGS

12. Basic Principles of Neuropharmacology
13. Physiology of the Peripheral Nervous System
14. Muscarinic Agonists and Antagonists
15. Cholinesterase Inhibitors and Their Use in Myasthenia Gravis
17. Adrenergic Agonists
18. Adrenergic Antagonists
19. Indirect-Acting Antiadrenergic Agents

V. CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DRUGS

20. Introduction to Central Nervous System Pharmacology
21. Drugs for Parkinson's Disease
22. Alzheimer's Disease
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24. Drugs for Epilepsy
25. Drugs for Muscle Spasm and Spasticity
26. Local Anesthetics
27. General Anesthetics
28. Opioid (Narcotic) Analgesics, Opioid Antagonists, and Nonopioid Centrally Acting Analgesics
29. Pain Management in Patients with Cancer
30. Drugs for Headache
31. Antipsychotic Agents and Their Use in Schizophrenia
32. Antidepressants
33. Drugs for Bipolar Disorder
34. Sedative-Hypnotic Drugs
35. Management of Anxiety Disorders
36. Central Nervous System Stimulants and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
37. Drug Abuse I: Basic Considerations
38. Drug Abuse II: Alcohol
39. Drug Abuse III: Nicotine and Smoking
40. Drug Abuse IV: Major Drugs of Abuse Other Than Alcohol and Nicotine

VI. DRUGS THAT AFFECT FLUID AND ELECTROLYTE BALANCE

41. Diuretics
42. Agents Affecting the Volume and Ion Content of Body Fluids

VII. DRUGS THAT AFFECT THE HEART, BLOOD VESSELS, AND BLOOD

43. Review of Hemodynamics
44. Drugs Acting on the Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System
45. Calcium Channel Blockers
46. Vasodilators
47. Drugs for Hypertension
48. Drugs for Heart Failure
49. Antidysrhythmic Drugs
50. Prophylaxis of Coronary Heart Disease: Drugs That Help Normalize Cholesterol and Triglyceride Levels
51. Drugs for Angina Pectoris
52. Anticoagulant, Antiplatelet, and Thrombolytic Drugs
53. Management of ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction
54. Drugs for Hemophilia
55. Drugs for Deficiency Anemias
56. Hematopoietic Agents

VIII. DRUGS FOR ENDOCRINE DISORDERS

57. Drugs for Diabetes Mellitus
58. Drugs for Thyroid Disorders
59. Drugs Related to Hypothalamic and Pituitary Function
Fellow nursing students, I won’t lie to you—pharm isn’t going to be the easiest class that you’ll be required to take. However, this text will be one of the few during your college or graduate school career that will actually do what it sets out to do: explain its subject matter in an understandable manner. Even among the understandable ones, few authors do it with as much grace or charm as Lehne, whose writing about a dry subject like pharmacology is conversational (all the time), encouraging (all the time), and drollly hilarious (when he jokes about killing his wife’s dog with the theobromine in chocolate). The text is a good professor distilled into book format—all 10 pounds of it.

Make no mistake, this book is a doorstopper and could be used as a lethal weapon. Yet, despite its weight (not to mention length), you’ll very rarely feel like you’re reading a science textbook. Most chapters are between 10 to 15 pages, offering a decent level of detail for a generalist RN student without being boring. Text within the chapters comes in different shapes and sizes: important drugs are in full-size font, less important ones in small print. The only thing you might miss are are a lack of the glitzy photographs that you see in a lot of other textbooks, but this helps keep the cost down: my general biology textbook back during undergrad was about half as thick, yet cost 50% more.

Lehne uses a “prototype” approach for teaching drugs: he’ll give you a single drug from a specific class (say, Prozac from the SSRI antidepressants,) and once you learn the mechanism of action, side effects, and other important details about that particular drug, it will be relatively easy to infer how the rest of the drugs within the same class operate.

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