

2001

# Fundamental Skills and Concepts in Patient Care, 7th Edition

Wendy Agard R.N.  
*Cypress Creek High School*

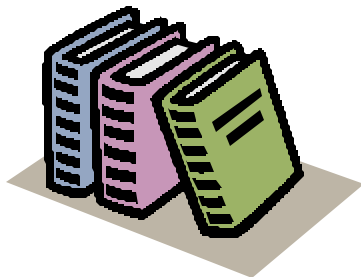
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## Book Reviews

### **Fundamental Skills and Concepts in Patient Care, Seventh Edition**

by Barbara K. Timby

Lippincott publication

Reviewed by: Wendy Agard, RN

Cypress Creek High School Health Sciences teacher, Orlando, Florida

A practical nursing textbook. Contents include nursing history, contemporary nursing issues and concepts, and nursing skills.

I am most impressed with this book for its organization, layout, and photos. Skills sheets have a blue border, making them easy to locate/identify. Chapter summaries are comprehensive, yet concise. The progression of topics is logical. I took a special interest in Chapter 5, the chapter on stress, because it is so relevant to 21st century America. I was also pleased to see photos of artificial eyes; a first for me!

I would like to see this book include more photos of male nurses in action. I would also like to see the publishers take advantage of modern technology and upgrade to color photos (which are easier to interpret) instead of black and white. The Mongolian spots, for example, are of little significance in a black and white photo. Also, because this textbook could easily become an excellent resource for nurses and students, a hard back cover would be desirable. The bed bath section needs updating. Most hospitals use a modified version of the old-fashioned bed bath, so additional information about diluting and utilizing no-rinse soaps and the use of multiple washcloths per bath would be useful. It would also be practical to include information about shampooing--or not shampooing--Black hair. In the section on death and dying, I would like to see information about a dying patient's last 24 hours. Valuable information would include the complications of mouth-breathing; the fact that research has shown us that glycerin is actually a drying (instead of moisturizing) substance; the fact that many patients can hear and understand long after they no longer communicate; and that their focus becomes "conservation of energy;" hence the rapid decline in responsiveness. Lastly, I would encourage the publishers to include a yearly insert that includes helpful website addresses.

I asked a couple of my high school students (eleventh graders) to review the book. Here are their comments:

"I think this book would be a good resource for a nursing student. The book covers many different aspects of nursing. I think the book is also good because it is easy to read. The book also does a good job of using tables, diagrams, and charts for explaining concepts. The book also shows pictures of real people to show practices (skills). So, if I was a nursing students, I would want to use this book to help me study."

" In my opinion, this book is self-explanatory. The illustrations and the wording used could not have gotten any simpler. The illustrations of the techniques performed are of great help. You could easily understand what they are trying to interpret through the pictures. I like the fact that after every explanation of the nursing skills, the book gives you a suggested action and a reason for the action. In my opinion, it is easier to understand what you are doing if you understand why you are doing it. It makes it simple to execute the activity when you combine the illustration with what you are reading.

"At the end of each activity, the book tells you everything that you have to document. It gives you examples of what the documentation should look like and the information that it must contain. The nursing care plan is an activity that gives a situation and walks you through the steps that should be taken...

"This book truly gives a detailed explanation of the fundamental skills and concepts in patient care."

In general, my students and I are impressed with the book and can see where we could use it to enhance learning experiences.

### **Fundamental Skills and Concepts in Patient Care, Seventh Edition**

By Barbara K. Timby

Lippincott publication

Reviewed by: Angela D. Collins  
[acoll34@prodigy.net](mailto:acoll34@prodigy.net)

I felt the textbook was very comprehensive with the data it was intended to provide. The skills were well organized and sufficiently explained. The step by step outlines with illustrations included I think are very beneficial. (especially for us 'visual' learners) However, I do feel that some of the illustrations/pictures were considerably outdated. In Health Care, where things are constantly changing, this might lead some to be suspect of the accuracy of the provided data. Some examples of the ones that concerned me are pages 272, 337, and 481. There was also a chart on page 11 that graphed trends in LPN/LVN enrollments from the year 1984 to 1995. Could this have not been updated since this edition was published in 2001? My only other concern for the textbook was that all illustrations and pictures were in black and white. I feel that a great deal of detail can be lost by not using colored photos. The selected readings provided at the

end of each chapter is nice and allows students to do more research on specific items.

The Study guide that accompanies the text is very nice. It covers the information well and also requires the students to use some critical thinking skills. And, you and I both know how important that skill can be in Healthcare. The skills checklist in this guide are well laid out and easily understood. It is also nice that the answers are available for the students as that they may assess their own knowledge retention, thus enabling them to focus on the areas they were weakest in.

The instructor's manual seems adequate for this set.

Each chapter is outlined briefly informing the instructor of the chapter highlights and also provided is the learning objectives for that chapter. Chapter resources and activities that the instructor might use are also provided. The 3.5 disk accompanies it is a great attachment. Who wouldn't like a testbank provided for them? What a time saver!

Thank you for the opportunity to review this set. Overall, I think it is a very good set. As I mentioned before, my concerns lean more toward presentation than content. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.