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Basic Medical Laboratory Techniques

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Van Fleet: Basic Medical Laboratory Techniques

Book Review

Basic Medical Laboratory Techniques. (2nd ed.). Norma J. Walters, Barbara H. Estridge, Anna P. Reynolds. Delmar Publications, Inc., Albany, New York, 1989, 516 pp.

Basic Medical Laboratory Techniques is a revised performance-based text-workbook. Major revisions include: a new chapter on clinical chemistry; units on cholesterol, nitrites, leukocytes, specific gravity, throat cultures, rheumatoid factor, and AIDS; and expanded units on laboratory instrumentation and calibration, asepsis, CDC guidelines, universal precautions, biological hazards, and laboratory safety.

The units are divided into lessons. Each lesson includes a list of objectives, glossary terms, basic information, lesson review, and student activities. Numerous worksheets and student performance guides with skill checklists are provided throughout the text. Color plates aid in the identification of blood cells, urine sediment, and bacteria.

A major strength of the text is its flexibility. The text is appropriate for use by health occupations instructors in secondary programs, by allied health educators in postsecondary programs, by college and university programs, and by medical facility personnel for inservice education. The format allows instructors to select lessons most appropriate to program and student needs. The book can be used in group sessions or for terminology, and the metric system provides basic instruction and skill training common to many health occupations.

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