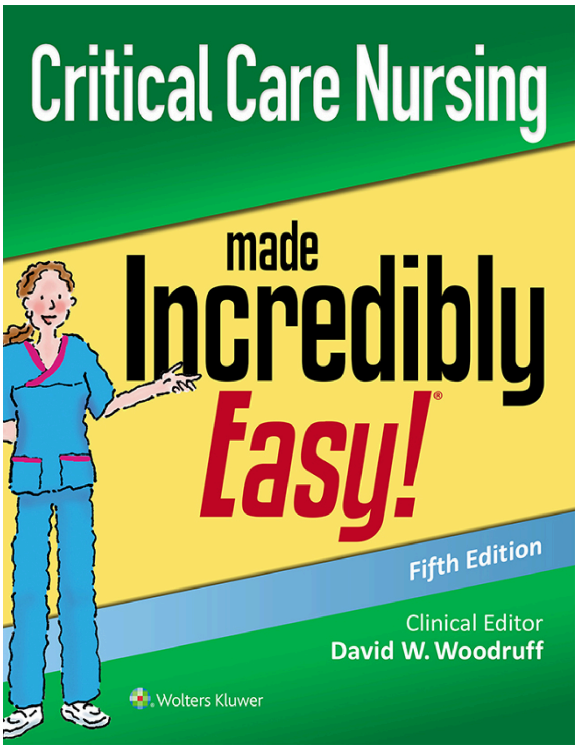


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Foreword

Critical care nursing transcends the walls of the intensive care unit and can include units as varied as emergency departments and postanesthesia care units. Nurses providing critical care treat patients with trauma, medical issues, surgical complications, and many other acute and life-threatening problems. Critical care nursing is holistic, dynamic, challenging, and interdisciplinary.

When critical care units began in the 1960s, the focus was on high-tech monitoring of critically ill patients, and although nurses still provide state-of-the-art monitoring, the focus of modern critical care is on achieving the best outcome for the patient and family. A holistic approach is necessary in order to manage ethical decisions, end-of-life decisions, family dynamics, and treatment options for chronic disease.

Critical care nursing is dynamic and challenging. Acutely ill patients have constantly changing needs and evolving health conditions that present many challenges for the critical care nurse including frequent assessments, computer and high-tech equipment literacy, and the need for continuous learning. Nurses, physicians, respiratory therapists, physical therapists, dietitians, and many other health care workers form a team in the critical care unit, ideally working in unison to provide coordinated interdisciplinary care.

In today's rapidly changing critical care environment, nurses need to clearly understand what they are doing and why. Education needs to be simple, understandable, and useful. I once had a professor tell me that if you really understand a concept, you can explain it to a child. That level of understanding takes simple yet complete education to achieve. *Critical Care Nursing Made Incredibly Easy!* strives to achieve that outcome.

Chapters include critical care basics; holistic care issues; body system–based conditions; and hematologic, immune, and multisystem disorders.

The updated content is expansive, and it includes applications to such specialized critical care arenas as rapid response teams and advanced life support measures. The spectrum of new information is timely and includes updates on moderate sedation; drug overdose; pressure ulcer management; and treating patients with specialized needs, such as elderly, pediatric, and bariatric patients.

The most important and necessary variable when transforming information to knowledge is comprehension. The signature of *Critical Care Nursing Made Incredibly Easy!*, Fifth Edition, is the way in which the information is presented: clearly, directly, and simply. The unique writing style, color illustrations, witty characters, and clever icons—most notably, Memory joggers, which offer simple tricks to remember key points—create a reference that helps you to translate critical care nursing information into practice.

In addition, icons draw your attention to important issues:



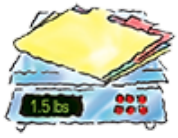
Advice from the experts—offers tips and tricks for nurses and key troubleshooting techniques



Take charge!—focuses on potentially lethal situations and steps to take when they occur



Handle with care—identifies concerns and actions related to elderly, pediatric, and bariatric patients



Weighing the evidence—highlights research that guides practice

This book is perfect for nursing students preparing for critical care practice and practicing nurses preparing for clinical care and is a great adjunct for nurses preparing for the Critical Care Certification Exam

(CCRN). Critical care nursing is a complex area of practice. In order to achieve your highest level, keep asking “Why?” The goal is to keep learning and growing throughout your critical care career.

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Mary Anne Vincent
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