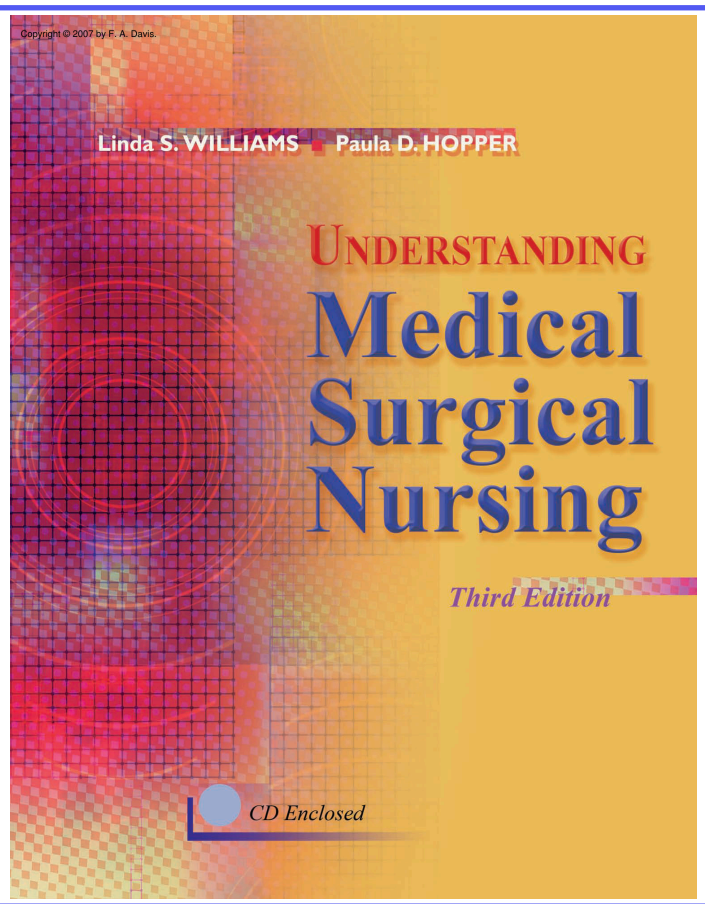


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Preface

Welcome to the third edition of *Understanding Medical Surgical Nursing!* We have fully updated all the material, and have added exciting new information on home health care, end-of-life care, disaster response and bioterrorism, stroke, and more.

We continue to work hard to provide a text written at an understandable level, with features that help students understand, apply, and practice the challenging content required to function as practical/vocational nurses. We are thankful to the many students who tell us they find the book very readable, and actually enjoyable. We are overjoyed to hear from several nursing programs that their NCLEX scores soared after adopting this textbook.

We continue to emphasize understanding, critical thinking, and application throughout the book. We believe that a student who learns to think critically will be better able to apply information to new situations. We hope both students and instructors find this third edition a practical tool for learning and understanding medical-surgical nursing.

FEATURES OF THE BOOK

We have kept our most popular features from the first two editions, and added new ones based on reader input.

- *Questions to Guide Your Reading* begin each chapter. In our experience, the standard objectives found in many textbooks have little meaning and provide little assistance to students. Literature suggests that comprehension increases when students read guiding questions before reading the text. So we have provided a series of questions that students should keep in mind as they read. These questions can be translated easily back into objectives by instructors who prefer this format.
- Special features written by actual patients, called *Patient Perspectives,* were added in the second edition. Many more have been added to this edition. These stories help to make patients' experiences with illness more meaningful and personal for students.
- Web links are included in the text to help students do further research on topics of interest. Every effort was made to use only major established web sites that are unlikely to change in the near future.
- One of our most popular features, Critical Thinking Exercises, has been expanded to help students practice and think about what they are learning. We have added more math calculations and documentation practice to Critical Thinking Exercises where applicable.
- Review questions at the end of each chapter have been updated and include alternate format items to reflect NCLEX-PN.
- Suggested Answers for the Critical Thinking Exercises and Review Questions are included. Research supports the importance of immediate feedback to reinforce learning, so we feel strongly that students should have access to correct answers while they are studying, without having to wait for their next instructor contact. Since there can be many answers to some of the critical thinking questions, we have provided sample answers to help stimulate students' thinking.
- The effects of aging on body systems have been converted from text format to a mindmap format. We believe this visual representation is easier to understand and apply than the traditional text.
- We have changed our Nursing Process format from text to bullet lists. It is very easy to read, clearly stands out, and makes interventions with rationale very clear to students.
- More Learning Tips, a very popular feature in past editions, have been added. New to the third edition are Nursing Care Tips and Safety Tips.
- JCAHO National Patient Safety Goals are reflected in many of the safety tips to give students an introduction to these safety goals.
- Nursing assessment, laboratory tests, and medications have been placed in consistent tables that are easy to read and understand.

- Summary boxes including nursing diagnoses have been expanded and included for most major disorders.
- A pronunciation key for new words is found at the beginning of each chapter.
- A review of anatomy and physiology is presented at the beginning of each unit.
- Word-building footnotes are found throughout the chapters to make complex medical terminology easier to understand.
- Nursing care plans with geriatric considerations have been updated.
- Boxed presentations of Cultural Considerations, Gerontological Issues, Home Health Hints, Ethical Considerations, and Nutrition Notes provide valuable supplemental information and help students relate text material to real life situations.
- Many new photographs and drawings have been added to illustrate important concepts.
- A comprehensive, updated glossary of new words is included in the appendix.

TO STUDENTS: HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

As you begin each chapter, carefully read the section labeled *Questions to Guide your Reading*. Then, when you are finished reading each chapter, go back and make sure you can answer each question.

You will find a list of new words and their pronunciations at the beginning of each chapter. These words appear in bold at their first use in a chapter, and they also appear in the glossary at the end of the book. By learning the meanings of these words as you encounter them, you will increase your understanding of the material.

You also will encounter other learning tips to increase your understanding and retention of the material. You may want to develop your own memory techniques in addition to those provided. (If you think of a good one, send it to us and you may find it in the next edition!) Many of the learning tips have been developed and used in our own classrooms. We find them helpful in fostering understanding of complex concepts or as memory aids. However, we want to stress that memorization is not the primary focus of the text but rather a foundation for understanding and thinking about more complex information. Understanding and application will serve you far better than memorization when dealing with new situations.

Each chapter includes critical thinking case studies designed to help you apply material that has been presented. A series of questions related to the case study will help you integrate the material with what you already know. These questions emphasize critical thinking, which is based on a foundation of recall and understanding of material. To enhance your learning, try to answer the questions before looking up the answers at the end of the chapter.

Review questions appear at the end of each chapter to help you prepare for chapter tests, and also for the NCLEX-PN. Again, to assess your learning, try to answer the questions before looking up the answers at the back of the book.

A bibliography at the end of each unit provides sources for additional reading material. Web sites have been included in many chapters. We believe it is important for you to interact with current technology to expand your information resources.

The following appendices are included for easy reference:

- NANDA nursing diagnoses
- Lab values
- Common medical abbreviations (Although it is still important to know the abbreviations, many can increase risk of errors. Check www.JCAHO.org for a list of abbreviations to avoid.)
- Common prefixes and suffixes to help learn word building techniques

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

- A new *Electronic Student Guide* is included with the book. This provides practice in the form of objective (fill-in, labeling, and flashcard) exercises, and case studies. There are also review questions and a practice NCLEX test. We have also included a brief math tutorial using Unit Analysis, and practice calculation problems. Answers are provided to all exercises for immediate feedback.
- A paperback *Student Workbook* is available to provide the student additional contact and practice with the material. Each chapter includes vocabulary practice, objective exercises, a case study or other critical thinking practice and review questions written in NCLEX-PN format. Answers provide immediate feedback. Rationales are provided for non-anatomy review question answers.
- An *Instructor's Resource Disk* includes an *Electronic Instructor's Guide* that provides materials for use in the classroom. Each chapter has a chapter outline with suggested classroom activities. Also included are student activities for printing and using for individual practice or for collaborative learning activities. These activities help the student to interact with the material, understand it, and apply it. Many of the activities are based on real patient cases and have been used with our own practical nursing students. Feedback from students has helped to refine the exercises. We believe the use of collaborative learning has greatly enhanced our students' success in achieving their educational and licensure goals. Another benefit is the sense of community the students develop as a result of working in groups. A brief introduction and guidelines for using collaborative learning techniques is

included. Also included is an expanded *Electronic Test Bank*, available to instructors who adopt the textbook, which provides test questions that assist students to prepare for NCLEX-PN. These questions have been prepared according to test item writing protocols. The questions are in multiple choice and alternate format, and test recall, application, and analysis of material. Many of the test questions have been developed, used and refined by the authors in their own medical-surgical courses for practical nursing students. The program allows instructors to choose and modify the questions that best suit their classroom needs. Finally, for the instructor's convenience, there is a comprehensive *Power Point* program for classroom presentations. Images from the text have been added for the third edition. Each presentation can be modified, reduced, or expanded by individual instructors to suit their needs.

Acknowledgements

Many people helped us make this book a reality. First and foremost are our students, who provided us with the inspiration to undertake this project. We hope that they continue to find this text worth reading.

The F.A. Davis Company has been an exceptional publishing partner. We feel fortunate to have had their continued enthusiasm and confidence in our book. The staff at F.A. Davis has guided us through this project for three editions to help us create a student-friendly book that truly promotes understanding of medical-surgical nursing.

Lisa Deitch, Shirley Kuhn, Ilysa Richman, Darlene Pedersen, Doris Wray, and many others have been extremely patient and kind as we worked hard to provide a quality text and meet deadlines.

We thank the staff of W.A. Foote Memorial Hospital in Jackson, Michigan for allowing us access to their facility and patients for a great photo shoot. Our photographer, Robert Conway, did a terrific job of obtaining some challenging shots.

Contributors from across the United States and Canada, including many well-known experts in their fields, brought expertise and diversity to the content. Their hard work is much appreciated. Reviewers from throughout the United States provided insights that enhanced the quality of the text. Elizabeth Hopper provided invaluable organizational assistance.

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We wish to thank everyone who played a role, however large or small, in helping us to provide a tool to help students realize their dreams of becoming an LPN or LVN. We hope this book will help train nurses who can provide safe and expert care because we have helped them to learn to think critically.

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