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Book Review; Day Surgery-Contemporary
Approaches to Nursing Care. F.Timmins
& C.McCabe, Wiley-Blackwell(2009)
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Book Review: Timmins F and McCabe C (2009) "Day Surgery- Contemporary Approaches to Nursing Care"
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In 2004 the United Kingdom Government placed Day Surgery as Number one on its list of priorities for the provision of Health Care. In 2008 the Darzi review re-iterated the importance of day surgery for quality health care. This book therefore is both timely and necessary. It is a joy to read a book that is both scholarly and practical. It is a much needed-text as to date there are few books which locates and identifies nursing skills within the short-stay surgical arena. Although this book has been written for nurses working in day surgery it would also be a very useful and rich resource for undergraduate student nurses. With the revolution in surgical care already taking place it is of vital importance that Schools of Nursing up-date their curriculum to include nursing interventions for this group of patients. This book could be a core text for student nurses. With this in mind therefore, it would be useful if each chapter could include a section on the role of the student nurse in day surgery. There is some evidence to suggest that student nurses do not always appreciate the richness of experience that a placement in day surgery can offer, therefore a section on the role of the qualified nurse as mentor to the student nurse in day surgery would also be a welcome addition.

The book opens with an introduction to the development of day surgery in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. It would have been helpful to have included a brief overview of day surgery development across the world. Chapter two is an excellent resource for those wishing to understand how theoretical models of nursing and integrated care pathways could be implemented in the Day Surgery Unit: Roper, Logan and Tierney, Orem and Peplau are the theorists discussed here. Their theories are presented, not as obscure effete pieces of work but as a practical solution to the organisation and delivery of nursing care.

Chapters three examine the nurses' role in the pre-operative assessment clinic. This is a vital area of care as the success of the day surgery experience often depends upon a sensitive and thorough assessment where the patient is given the opportunity to disclose their anxieties and concerns and for the nurse to provide information and comfort. There is a helpful section here on setting up a nurse- led pre-operative assessment clinic. Other well written chapters include communication issues and information provision.

In future editions it would be helpful if a list of useful addresses could be given in an appendix, such as Royal College of Surgeons, Anaesthetists, and Day Surgery Associations etc. Case studies and topics for reflection scattered throughout the book would also add value to an otherwise excellent book

References

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