

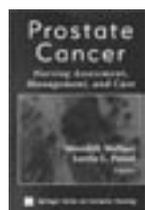
# MEDIA REVIEWS

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## B O O K S

**Prostate Cancer: Nursing Assessment, Management, and Care.** Meredith Wallace and Lorrie L. Powel\* (Eds). New York: Springer Publishing Company, 2002, 224 pages, \$38.95.

   **Hardcover**



This text offers useful information for nurses who assess, diagnose, treat, and care for men with prostate cancer and those who are being screened for the disease. One in a series on geriatric nursing topics, this text is the only one focused on an oncology topic. However, not all of the content in *Prostate Cancer: Nursing Assessment, Management, and Care* is aimed at older adults; some applies to any man with prostate cancer.

The authors provide information that is supported by published nursing and medical research and include recommendations for future research. The text is divided into 11 chapters: the nature of the problem; risk factors and prevention; assessment, screening, and diagnosis; treatment choices and decision making; quality of life; surgery; radiation therapy; hormonal therapy; watchful waiting; patient education; and end-of-life issues. The chapters vary in detail; some are good resources for nurses with prior experience and knowledge in prostate patient cancer management, but nurses new to the care of patients with prostate cancer will need additional references for a more in-depth discussion of patient management.

*Prostate Cancer: Nursing Assessment, Management, and Care* does have some limitations. For example, some of the newer approaches to patient management such as laparoscopic prostatectomy and intensity modulated radiation therapy as well as more

commonly used methods, including chemotherapy, are discussed only briefly. The number of illustrations is sparse, and not all of the chapters contain tables and figures. Those illustrations that are depicted clearly enhance readers' understanding of the content. The text does not include care plans or standards of care for patients with prostate cancer; in addition, the chapter on patient education does not provide examples of education materials or possible resources. This type of content would have added to readers' understanding of the management of men with prostate cancer. The authors support their findings with references throughout the text; however, the reference list is at the end of the book instead of divided at the end of each chapter. The text itself is 172 pages long, which is followed by 40 pages of references. This format makes it difficult for readers to easily identify references that may be of interest.

Overall, this text is appropriate as an additional resource for more experienced nurses interested in or providing care to men with prostate cancer but may not be appropriate as a stand-alone reference.

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**Conversations in E-Learning.** Diane M. Billings (Ed.). Pensacola, FL: Pohl Publishing, Inc., 2002, 264 pages, \$28.

   **Softcover**



This book is divided into 10 sections (introduction, strategic planning, e-learning tools and platforms, e-educators, e-learners, designing courses and modules, the online learning community, teaching and e-learning, e-quality, and ethical and legal considerations). Each of these sections begins with a brief introduc-

tion and learning goals, which are addressed in the section's chapters. The information is provided in an easy-to-read question-and-answer format.

The authors provide a concise overview of e-learning, the use of online learning strategies for education, that will be helpful to all e-learners. E-learning is defined, and information is offered about how e-learning can be used for staff development, academic courses, and continuing education. For example, advantages and disadvantages to online staff development courses are listed. When considering developing such a course, readers are encouraged to examine strategic planning and internal marketing to achieve maximum results. Identifying the needs of e-learners, orienting e-learners, and providing support are reviewed. E-learning tools and platforms, learning management systems, and advanced tools (audio and video) also are introduced. Helpful tables and information describe conferencing, testing, and development tools, as well as all-in-one products.

One section in *Conversations in E-Learning* is focused on potential e-educators. This section provides questions and answers about teaching via the Web. For example, directions for developing a Web course (e.g., organizing material, formatting files, layout) as well as issues about identifying at-risk students, managing time, and determining ideal class size are addressed. Details such as incorporating information from multiple media and design concepts (e.g., fonts, colors, graphics) can save a great deal of time when planning online courses. Web sites that offer instruction for teaching online are provided. Although the principles of good practice are second nature to experienced classroom educators, the type of information presented in this section helps readers to enhance online didactic activities and facilitate clinical learning activities.

*Conversations in E-Learning* presents useful information related to online grading and testing, evaluating courses, benchmarking, and developing courses for continuing education. An entire section is devoted to ethical and legal considerations related to copyright, fair use, online privacy, cookies, and conducting research online. This important information can help to guide e-educators and e-learners.

This book will appeal primarily to novices in e-learning and e-education. The e-learning overview, suggestions, and electronic links will help novices to avoid the pitfalls that

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Ease of Reference and Usability	Content Level	Book Size
 Quick, on-the-spot resource	 Basic	 Pocket size
 Moderate time requirement	  Intermediate	 Intermediate
 In-depth study	   Advanced and complex, prerequisite reading required	 Desk reference

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are inherent in a trial-and-error approach to e-education and e-learning. However, an experienced e-educator also will benefit from the wide variety of information (e.g., suggestions, tables, Internet links) provided.

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**Bioethics Mediation: A Guide to Shaping Shared Solutions.** Nancy N. Dubler and Carol B. Liebman. New York: United Hospital Fund, 2004, 221 pages, \$39.95.

   Softcover



*Bioethics Mediation: A Guide to Shaping Shared Solutions* is an education tool and a reference guide that proposes that the best process for identifying, understanding, and resolving conflicts in bioethics consultations is through a mediative intervention. The authors discuss the role of bioethics consultation and how to apply bioethics mediation in the medical setting.

Basic medical ethics principles are defined. Then, bioethics consultation and mediation skills are blended to present a structure for developing a systematic framework that can be implemented realistically and effectively. The procedural aspects of mediation are well defined. The methods and principles used to begin and carry out this process to reach resolution are explained clearly. Excellent case studies are presented using diverse bioethical issues to demonstrate how this process can facilitate resolution of difficult situations encountered by patients, families, and staff. Another strength of the book is that pertinent definitions and concepts are highlighted in text boxes throughout the publication for easy reference. Although the text focuses on hospital settings, home health and nursing home facilities will find this text very useful in establishing a process to resolve many ethical dilemmas. In a time when patients present with complex, multiple illness in hospitals where resources are being more carefully scrutinized and utilized, this book can be a vital resource in determining how these valuable resources may be used for the best interest of the patient and/or family.

This book is unique in that bioethics mediation is described in the context of the medical environment as a clinical intervention with input from all parties involved versus in organizations such as corporate businesses where mediation is viewed as an authoritarian, arbitrator-driven, administrative procedure. Those involved in bioethics committees will want to read this book for

its presentation of mediation as another approach to bioethical issue resolution that can be used as a part of bioethics consultations.

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## C D - R O M

**Prostate Cancer: Your Decision Notebook.** Healthmark Multimedia. Washington, DC: Healthmark Multimedia, 2001, \$39.95.

   CD-ROM



*Prostate Cancer: Your Decision Notebook* is a CD-ROM designed to assist men with prostate cancer in understanding the impact of the disease and making informed decisions about treatment. The CD-ROM's presentation does not attempt to influence treatment decisions or take the place of a physician consultation; therefore, the presentation provides information in an unbiased manner.

This product is intended to be used by men diagnosed with prostate cancer before treatment is implemented, but it also could be useful in reinforcing information after treatment has started. Users can step through every aspect of the diagnosis and treatment options without being guided to a predetermined treatment approach. At any point in the presentation, users can print information sheets for further discussion with the health-care team. To receive the maximum benefit, users should have a basic understanding of prostate cancer. The CD-ROM's only limitation is that it does not present issues that may be unique to significant others who interact or provide care, but this is not its primary focus.

The CD-ROM itself is technically well produced. The program is easy to install, and the interface is seamless. The operating system requirements are Microsoft® Windows 95, 98, 98SE, NT (SP4), 2000, or ME. The computer's processor should be a Pentium MMX 233 MHz or Pentium II 300 MHz, with 32 megabytes of RAM or more. The CD-ROM is easy to navigate. Although technical language is minimal, the nature of the subject matter makes it somewhat complex. No particular specialized background is needed to benefit from this product, but users need to be fairly literate.

Numerous CD-ROMs are being produced that focus on patients with cancer and provide information about the disease, treatments, or other aspects of care. The focus of this product is only on prostate cancer; therefore, it presents a breadth of information that is broad as well as comprehensive. *Prostate Cancer: Your Decision Notebook*

would be most useful as a resource in settings such as libraries or patient waiting areas. Individuals who want to thoroughly explore prostate cancer and the decision-making process may wish to have this on a home computer for reference throughout the prostate cancer experience.

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## Other Books

**When a Parent Is Sick: Helping Parents Explain Serious Illness to Children.** Joan Hamilton\*. East Lawrencetown, Canada: Pottersfield Press, 2001, 128 pages, softcover, \$12.95.

What do you tell children when a parent has been diagnosed with a serious illness? What words should you use? This book provides parents and caregivers with suggestions for approaching children with the information that a parent is seriously ill. Numerous examples are provided for children as well as teens.

The author reviews a child's understanding and response to serious illness at different stages of development. She provides suggestions for adults to help children cope with their feelings and the daily disruptions that the illness has created. The book also includes chapters about what to do when a parent is dying and when a parent dies. A list of books and other resources for parents and children who want to read further on the subject is provided.

**Tapestry: The Journey of Laurel Lee.** Written and illustrated by Laurel Lee. Silverton, OR: Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 2004, 288 pages, hardcover, \$22.95.

In the late 1970s, 29-year-old Laurel Lee was diagnosed with Hodgkin disease and told that she would die. Her husband, unable to cope, abandoned her and their three small children. While Laurel fought desperately for her life, she kept a journal. That diary, sent to publishers by her doctors, became the best-selling book and CBS movie *Walking Through the Fire*. Contrary to her prognosis, Laurel did not die. The success of that book and three sequels threw this young, single mother into worldwide travel, adventure, and challenge.

Through her battles with cancer, her dream for true love, and the struggles of raising her children alone, Laurel's heartbreaks and disappointments did not weaken her spirit. Rather, she rose up and soared on a most unforgettable journey. With more than 90 illustrations and 60 photos, *Tapestry* weaves through the decades of her life with a consistent language of grace, faith, and a special lyrical intensity. \_\_\_\_\_ 