SKILLS UPDATE

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First edition 1992

Reprinted 1992

Reprinted 1993

Published by
MACMILLAN MAGAZINES LTD
4 Little Essex Street
London WC2R 3LF

ISBN 978-0-333-57861-2

ISBN 978-1-349-12990-4 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-12990-4

FOREWORD

As Editor of *Community Outlook*
I became aware of the increasing range of skills needed by
nurses working in the community.

This series of Skills Updates, which first appeared in
Community Outlook, is a response to nurses' requests
for articles to refresh their thinking and improve the
practice of skills they may have learned some years before.

It is not intended as first-line teaching
of the skills described, many of which should have been
acquired during basic nurse education. However,
even a routine skill such as taking and recording blood
pressure is presented in such a way as to encourage even
the most experienced nurse to reflect on
his or her practice and the implications this may have for
the patient.

Skills such as venepuncture are primarily task-oriented,
but others, such as assessing a patient for coronary heart
disease, cover the wider areas of health promotion and
patient involvement and incorporate the use of specific
skills described earlier in the book.

It is hoped that the Skills Updates will be of use to nurses
everywhere, as well as those working in the community
and in general practice. They can also provide an ideal
trigger for discussion with students.

Sue Smith

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