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# Understanding Pharmacology in Nursing Practice

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Pauline Hood • Ehsan Khan  
Editors

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 Springer

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## Preface

“Were there none who were discontented with what they have, the world would never reach anything better.”

Florence Nightingale (1852: 29)

Contemporary health care practice is informed and shaped by the abundance of dynamic advances in medical science. Therapeutic pharmacology is an aspect of such development and a central feature of clinical practice. It is crucial therefore that to practise responsibly, nurses and other health care practitioners have a sound understanding of how drugs cause action and effect.

While it is envisaged that this book will be useful for a range of health care practitioners, the emphasis is on the role of the nurse and the use of prescribed medication in practice with a focus on the adult service user.

Registered nurses practise in a diverse range of health care settings, where prescribed medication is invariably a key component of planned care for the service user. Entirely appropriately, there is an emphasis on safe administration of prescribed medication in practice, i.e. the five rights ‘right patient, right drug, right dose, right route, and right time’ (Eisenhauer et al. 2007). Additionally, the nurse must ensure that they educate the service user about the drug regimen, not just from a ‘why’, ‘what’, ‘how’, and ‘when’ perspective, but by also discussing what impact the drug(s) may/will have and by reiterating the therapeutic goal. Monitoring, reporting, and documenting a service user’s pharmacological response to drug therapy in terms of treatment outcomes is also a significant aspect of the nurse’s role together with being aware of possible adverse reactions of administered medication.

To achieve the quality of care required and to uphold regulatory standards of proficiency (NMC 2018) and other guidance (RPS 2013), it requires the practitioner to have both a panoptic and a detailed knowledge of pharmacology juxtaposed with an understanding of the legal and ethical aspects of the nurse’s role and drug therapy.

This book has been composed by health care professionals who are dedicated to promoting knowledgeable, safe care. Our goal is to inform, inspire, and advance health care; we envisage the structure and content of the book will help to achieve this.

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