

# REVIEWS

**Nancy Phelan Walsh, RN, MSN**  
Associate Editor

## BOOKS

**Textbook of Palliative Nursing.** *Betty Rolling Ferrell\**, *Nessa Coyle\**, editors. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001, 854 pages, \$85.

🕒🕒🕒 √√ 📖📖📖 Hardcover



Despite the increased attention that end-of-life care has received nationally, remarkably few textbooks are available that provide the theoretical base for the practice of hospice and palliative care nursing. With the advent of graduate programs in palliative care nursing, the availability of appropriate texts for teaching becomes even more critical. The *Textbook of Palliative Nursing* is a turning point in the history of palliative and hospice nursing. The importance of this text is highlighted by the prefaces contributed by three pioneers in the field of hospice and end-of-life care: Dame Cicely Saunders (chair, St. Christopher's Hospice, London), Florence Wald (a leader in founding the first U.S. hospice in Connecticut), and Jeanne Quint Benoliel (professor emeritus, School of Nursing at the University of Washington). The editors themselves are distinguished practitioners, researchers, and leaders in the field of palliative care. The contributing authors also include many who have assisted in improving practice, research, and publication in end-of-life care and, in particular, the assessment and management of physical, psychosocial, and spiritual symptoms as well as the understanding of grief and bereavement. Many are considered to be experts in their area of subspecialty.

The text enlarges the world of hospice and palliative care nursing beyond the United States through a substantial section on international perspectives of palliative nursing. This is a welcome addition to a text of such depth and breadth. Contributions were sub-

\* *Oncology Nursing Society member*

mitted from Africa, Asia, Australia, and Europe; however, none were found from any of the predominantly Muslim countries of the Middle East. Although Canada and South American countries are mentioned, Mexico is noticeably absent.

The strengths of the text lie in its chapters on the assessment and management of specific physical, psychosocial, and spiritual symptoms. Pain and symptom management are the core expertise of hospice and palliative nurses. This topic organization assumes that symptoms arising from different body systems are assessed and managed similarly regardless of the disease process involved. This is true to a large extent; however, nurses practicing in end-of-life care sometimes find it difficult to locate information on the course of advanced disease, especially for noncancer, end-stage disease. Some special populations are covered very well, including the elderly, pediatric patients with cancer, the poor and underserved, and patients with AIDS.

In many instances, the *Textbook of Palliative Nursing* provides detailed information regarding pharmacologic and complementary approaches; in fact, an entire chapter focuses on complementary therapies. As palliative nurses look to pharmacologic interventions to provide relief to patients, they also need to examine more thoroughly the pitfalls of polypharmacy as multiple symptoms are managed simultaneously. This topic should be covered in future texts: How do nurses manage drug-drug interactions and limit the side effects of medications as they try to provide expert pain and symptom relief?

The nature of palliative care involves dealing with the transition of patients from "curative" care to "supportive" or "comfort" care. The chapter on establishing goals and communicating with patients and families experiencing this transition and the chapter on supporting families in palliative care are excellent. The text is unique in addressing the palliative needs of patients such as those in intensive care and rehabilitation units.

The *Textbook of Palliative Nursing* is well worth acquiring, especially for those interested in expanding and enlarging their practice and

understanding and for those who are teaching or orienting hospice and palliative care nurses.

*Lynn Borstelmann, RN, MN, CHPN,*  
AOCN®  
Director, Continuum of Care  
University Hospital  
State University of New York Upstate  
Medical University  
Syracuse, NY

**Principles and Practice of Palliative Care and Supportive Oncology (2nd ed.)**. *Ann M. Berger\**, *Russell K. Portenoy*, *David E. Weissman*, editors. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, 2002, 1,200 pages, \$159.

🕒🕒🕒 √√√ 📖📖📖📖 Hardcover



*Principles and Practice of Palliative Care and Supportive Oncology* is a comprehensive resource that addresses physical, psychosocial, and spiritual concerns of patients with cancer and their families. With

a focus on palliative care and supportive oncology medical practices, this book includes strategies that support patients from the time of diagnosis until death. The editors have recruited an impressive, multidisciplinary cadre of chapter authors. Although physicians (i.e., practicing oncologists) are the text's targeted audience, oncology nurses will find the content relevant and vital to cancer nursing practice.

The book is divided into six segments: symptoms and syndromes, issues in palliative care, ethical considerations in palliative care, special interventions in supportive and palliative care, special populations, and research issues in supportive and palliative care. Each chapter is concise, yet comprehensive. Numerous assessment tools, treatment algorithms, and tabular information enhance clinical utility. The second edition is even more comprehensive than the first because the editors added new chapters on hiccups, psychiatric approaches to care, bone pain, management of coagulopathies, management of heart failure, cross-cultural issues, models of palliative care, ethics and the law, music and art therapy, and complementary and alternative approaches.

Oncology nurses will find this textbook useful as a resource for daily patient care management questions and palliative care program planning. Although *Principles and Practice* includes all relevant clinical care topics, nurses

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/03.ONF.529-530

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