BOOK REVIEW

Handbook of drugs in intensive care: An A-Z guide

H. Paw, R. Shulman

This handbook describes how to use drugs safely and effectively in the ICU. It consists of an A to Z guide of the individual drugs used in critically ill patients in the United Kingdom and comprises short notes on relevant ICU topics. It is written for nurses, doctors and pharmacists in a clear way. More than 100 drugs are described in terms of their mode of action, use, contraindications, administration, how not to use, adverse effects, cautions, and dosing in organ failure. Regarding the A to Z part: its use in the Dutch setting is limited. We use other drugs, different dosages (especially those in renal replacement therapy) and the route of administration can deviate. With regard to the mode of administration: the ‘Handboek Parenteralia’ in our hospitals provides up-to-date information for safe administration of drugs. The second part of the handbook consists of short notes and this part is interesting. It provides useful background information for (starting) ICU doctors, nurses and pharmacists. Topics such as pharmacology, antibiotics, renal replacement therapy, management of acute major anaphylaxis etc. are well addressed. Tables are provided for dosing schedules, intravenous compatibility and antibiotic sensitivities. Some of these tables are useful in daily practice. The strong points of this handbook are its pocket size and the information in the short notes. The information about the individual drugs is not suitable for daily practice in the Netherlands. I would recommend the part of this book with the short notes to starting ICU doctors and pharmacists interested in critical care.

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NVIC Cursus Echografie
Wednesday 25 November – Thursday 26 November 2015

NVIC Intensivistendagen 2016
Thursday 21 January – Friday 22 January 2016

ESICM Berlin
Saturday 3 October – Wednesday 7 October 2015

ISICEM Brussels
Tuesday 15 March – Friday 18 March 2016

ICEM Cape Town
Monday 18 April – Tuesday 21 April 2016