

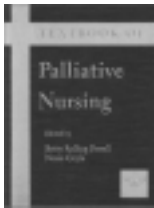
REVIEWS

Nancy Phelan Walsh, RN, MSN  
Associate Editor

B O O K S

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

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Despite the increased at-  
tention that end-of-life care  
has received nationally, re-  
markably few textbooks are  
available that provide the  
theoretical base for the prac-  
tice of hospice and palliative  
care nursing. With the ad-  
vent of graduate programs in palliative care  
nursing, the availability of appropriate texts for  
teaching becomes even more critical. The *Text-  
book 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 Connecti-  
cut), 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 con-  
tributing authors also include many who have  
assisted in improving practice, research, and  
publication in end-of-life care and, in particu-  
lar, the assessment and management of physi-  
cal, psychosocial, and spiritual symptoms as  
well as the understanding of grief and bereave-  
ment. 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 inter-  
national perspectives of palliative nursing.  
This is a welcome addition to a text of such  
depth and breadth. Contributions were sub-

mitted from Africa, Asia, Australia, and Eu-  
rope; 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 symp-  
toms. Pain and symptom management are the  
core expertise of hospice and palliative nurses.  
This topic organization assumes that symp-  
toms 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 pa-  
tients with cancer, the poor and underserved,  
and patients with AIDS.

In many instances, the *Textbook of Pallia-  
tive Nursing* provides detailed information re-  
garding 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 poly-  
pharmacy 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 deal-  
ing with the transition of patients from "cura-  
tive" care to "supportive" or "comfort" care.  
The chapter on establishing goals and commu-  
nicating with patients and families experienc-  
ing this transition and the chapter on support-  
ing 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. Weiss-  
man, editors. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams  
and Wilkins, 2002, 1,200 pages, \$159.

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*Principles and Practice  
of Palliative Care and Sup-  
portive Oncology* is a com-  
prehensive resource that  
addresses physical, psy-  
chosocial, and spiritual con-  
cerns of patients with can-  
cer and their families. With  
a focus on palliative care and supportive oncol-  
ogy medical practices, this book includes strat-  
egies that support patients from the time of di-  
agnosis until death. The editors have recruited  
an impressive, multidisciplinary cadre of chap-  
ter authors. Although physicians (i.e., practic-  
ing oncologists) are the text's targeted audi-  
ence, oncology nurses will find the content rel-  
evant 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 assess-  
ment 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, physiatrie approaches to care, bone  
pain, management of coagulopathies, manage-  
ment 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 man-  
agement questions and palliative care program  
planning. Although *Principles and Practice*  
includes all relevant clinical care topics, nurses

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, pre- requisite reading required	📖📖📖 Desk reference

\* Oncology Nursing Society member