

Book review

Andrew Sadler and Leo Cheng. Dentist on the Ward. 2016 (6th) edition. Sorejaw. 187 pages, price £24.50, ISBN 9780956937759.

Written by two eminent names in oral and maxillofacial surgery, this popular book is now in its 6th edition and is designed to better prepare junior trainees who are considering working in a hospital setting for the first time.

The book provides comprehensive guidance on various clinical problems that you may encounter while “on the ward”. It is divided into four sections. The first provides an introduction to hospital services and essential information; the second looks at routine procedures that a new appointee may need to know; the third looks at basic knowledge of medicine in relation to dentistry; and the final section looks at a broader range of the clinical work that oral and maxillofacial surgeons do.

For this edition eight chapters have been updated to reflect recent changes in clinical practice and a further four new chapters have been added. In particular, the addition of the chapters on radiotherapy and understanding potentially malignant disorders further complements this book as it covers the essential elements trainees would encounter in their day-to-day work.

The book is well laid out with each chapter having a number of coloured images to break up the text and for the reader

to refer to. Where appropriate, images are often annotated to fully appreciate what is being explained, which I found particularly useful.

It also provides fundamental guidance in various circumstances you would encounter while being on call. I also found that most of the book is written as a “survival guide”, covering common presentations in the emergency, ward, and clinical settings, which is incredibly practical.

One of the only criticisms I found was that it does not have an index, which is rather unfortunate as I find this is indispensable for the reader to locate certain material in the book.

I can see why previous editions have been so popular, as it provides a gentle introduction to oral and maxillofacial surgery and an essential guide for all those who are about to embark work in a hospital setting – a must have!

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