
Foreword

Children are the future! The world population growth rate has been steadily declining except in Latin America, the Middle East, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Asia accounts for over 60% of the world population with almost 3.8 billion people. Around one fourth of the world's population is below 15 years of age. From these data, the importance of dedicated child care cannot be overemphasized.

Well child care is often a good quality indicator for the national health of a country. In this era of the internet, we can acquire updated medical knowledge through resources, such as online physician desk reference, *Medline*, *UptoDate*, and others. However, there are still many undeveloped areas where primary care providers might not have access to such ever changing online information technology. Therefore, a brief but comprehensive handbook for ambulatory child care is extremely important for primary care providers, such as family physicians, pediatricians, and internists. *Handbook of Clinical Pediatrics* fills this need in an admirable fashion.

This book introduces readers to a remarkably complete picture of health topics for children and adolescents. It covers biomedical and mental health, as well as preventive health care issues. Specifically, this book provides readers with an up-to-date knowledge base about child and adolescent immunizations and genetic counseling. It covers several topics not seen in other pocket books, such as dental care, sleeping disorders, pediatric gynecology, sexual abuse issues, and sports medicine. It also discusses internet health from the view point of pediatricians. Most importantly, it emphasizes

essential and practical management principles for ambulatory care in preference to hospital care.

Thanks and congratulations to the editors of this Handbook — it is an outstanding contribution to the education of the many dedicated clinicians all over the world who tirelessly treat children and adolescents to grow up healthy and successful.

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