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Paul Lyons

Obstetrics in Family Medicine

A Practical Guide

Second Edition

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Series Editor's Introduction

Obstetrics in Family Medicine: A Practical Guide, 2nd edition, by Paul Lyons, MD, is an important book for the approximately 21,000 family physicians in the USA who regularly perform obstetrics, as well as the 7500 physicians currently in residency training for whom obstetrics is considered a core body of knowledge. This title should serve as an important addition to the literature in its scope and orientation.

Dr. Lyons' approach to the material is carefully organized and gives particular attention to the relevant aspects of prenatal and pregnancy care that family doctors need to know. He speaks with clarity of voice as an inner-city family physician who has done a great deal of obstetrics care and understands both the practical realities of the delivery rooms and the evidence based on which obstetrical decisions are made.

Obstetrics in Family Medicine: A Practical Guide will find its place in the practices of family doctors who are doing obstetrics, in the offices of family doctors who may not practice obstetrics but desire to know more so that they can better understand what is happening to their pregnant patients, and as a useful resource for family medicine residents in training.

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Preface

When I began the first edition of this textbook, I was certain of the topic's importance but less certain of the response to such a text. With the introduction of the second edition, I am grateful for the response to the previous edition as a reflection of the broad interest in providing quality care during this critical period in women's lives.

Much has changed in medicine since that time and obstetrical care has advanced as well. New diagnostic options have been introduced, new medications have found their way into routine care, and HIV has evolved from an acute and often fatal disease to a chronic disease that can be well managed with careful collaborative partnerships. While no text can fully capture all the intricacies of a field, I have tried to reflect these advances in this text.

While not all practitioners will include obstetrical care in their practice, it remains my conviction that all of us who care for women may find it helpful to have a reference that addresses key clinical issues in this important element of women's health.

I would like to once again recognize that this work would not be possible without the guidance and assistance of many others. The insight, critique, feedback, and suggestions have been invaluable in the final form. While there are too many to name individually, I would like to acknowledge Dimitrios Mastrogiannis, MD, whose wisdom, humor, insight, and collaboration have been essential. I would like to recognize once again the ongoing support of my wife, Cynthia, and the forbearance of my children, Devin and Dylan. They are not only why I would do this work they are responsible, in large part, for how I am able to do it.

Riverside, CA

Paul Lyons, MD

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