

PRACTITIONER'S GUIDANCE SERIES - V



Editor in Chief :

Shankar P.S.

Section Editors :

Sudarshan M.K.

Ranjan Kumar Pejaver

C.R. Chandrashekar

Medical Negligence

Non Accidental Injuries - Recognizing The Red Flags

**Control of Communicable Diseases In India:
Public Health Role Of Medical Practitioners**

**Geriatric Psychiatry
Mental Health Needs of Elderly People**

KARNATAKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

BENGALURU

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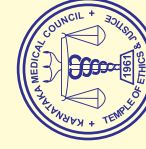
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President's Remarks



KMC is publishing the fifth series of books useful to the Practitioners. I thank the Editorial board for bringing this book. Our members are enthusiastic to implement measures for improvement in functioning of Council.

Discrepancy in CME credit hours in KMC act and MCI Guidelines has been resolved by amending the act, for which the Council immensely thanks the Government of Karnataka. CME programs will be effectively implemented by introducing provisions for online programs, including one put up by BMJ. CME programs are meant to educate the Practitioners certainly not to harass them.

Renewal process of Registration will be completed by 30th June 2017. With this digitization process will be complete and Council will have accurate data of practitioners.

Present book has useful topics on Medical negligence, Non-traumatic injuries in children, Mental disorders in elderly, and Communicable diseases.

Practitioners should involve actively in implementation of public health schemes and public education regarding preventive aspects of communicable and lifestyle diseases. Doctors are requested to spend more time in counseling the patient, which will help in minimizing attack on them whenever patient has adverse outcome.

H. VEERABHADRAPPA
President, KMC



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Editorial



The Publication team is very happy to place the fifth series of Practitioner's Guidance series which carries information on diverse topics such as medical negligence, mental disorders in elderly, child abuse and communicable diseases. The medical practitioner should have a good knowledge of all these topics to carry out his duties effectively.

Any act or omission by a health care provider is referred to as medical or professional negligence. The treatment provided by the medical professional falls below the accepted standard of practice and it results in injury or death to the patient. There is failure to exercise due care. It gives a patient the right to initiate action against negligence. Medical professional undertakes medical advice and treatment by stating that he/she has the requisite knowledge and skill to undertake the treatment.

Mistakes can happen in diagnosing the nature of the disease and undertaking the treatment. A doctor can be held for negligence only if one can prove that he/she is guilty of a failure. Hence doctors must exercise at most care while making a diagnosis and undertaking the treatment. The liability of a doctor arises when the injury result due to the conduct of the doctor which is below the reasonable care. The health provider must have a detailed knowledge of the legal implications that arise from medical negligence.

The population is ageing rapidly worldwide. Elderly persons are at risk of developing mental disorders and neurological diseases. They encounter problems concerned to mental health and emotional wellbeing. There is a greater incidence of neuropsychiatric disorders, dementia and depression. Many of them fail to seek help for these ailments.

Different social, psychological and biological factors play dominant role in determining the mental health of an individual. Elderly

persons suffer from mental or physical disorder, or both, and they necessitate long-term care. Loss of independence, drop in socioeconomic status, disability, and bereavement make them to lead a life in isolation, loneliness and psychological distress. It is commonly observed that mental health has an influence on physical health and vice versa. In this background there is need to train health professionals to take care of elderly persons. They play an important role in preventing and managing age-related chronic diseases, including mental and neurological disorders.

Non-accidental injury (NAI) forms an important cause of morbidity and mortality especially in infants and children. Physical injuries are commonly seen when children have been physically harmed as a result of abuse and neglect. The injuries may present in the form of non-accidental head injury (shaken baby syndrome) or injuries affecting the brain (contusion, haematoma), eye (haemorrhage), bone (fracture), skin (bruise, petechiae, blisters). It is important for the health professional to be skillful to recognise and respond to child abuse and neglect.

Communicable diseases refer to the diseases that may be transmitted from person-to- person, food, water and /or animals. Thus they can be water-borne, food-borne, air-borne and vector-borne. It is necessary to undertake immunization and practice universal precautions, and to conduct health education programs in the schools, spread the knowledge about disease prevention, and adoption of hygienic measures, good hand washing, case isolation and effective treatment.

There should be measures for food safety, wash the hands often, cleanliness and disinfection of commonly used surfaces, cover the face while coughing and sneezing, vaccination, avoidance of touching animals, not to share personal items, and stay at home when sick. Health professional should train people to adopt the above healthy practices and to keep their environment clean.

The health care provider will greatly benefit by studying the information given in this book.

P.S. SHANKAR
Editor-in-Chief

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