Legionella and the Prevention of Legionellosis

Jamie Bartram, Yves Chartier, John V. Lee, Kathy Bond, and Susanne Surman-Lee, editors

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Legionella and the Prevention of Legionellosis is much less about the former and more about the latter. The book is essentially a risk-management manual for legionellosis, modeled on the World Health Organization's framework for providing safe drinking water. Introductory chapters on the disease and the ecology of *Legionella* spp. and a concluding chapter on laboratory aspects of *Legionella* spp. serve as bookends for 7 chapters on risk management of legionellosis. The intervening chapters discuss known sources of risk for the disease: potable water; cooling towers and evaporative condensers; healthcare facilities; hotels and ships; and natural spas, hot tubs, and swimming pools. A chapter on disease surveillance and outbreak management and another on regulatory aspects complete the core.

Although this book is more a manual than a text, it has much to recommend and little to criticize. An international group of 58 experts contributed to the book, assuring consensus, completeness, and accuracy. Also, unlike many multiauthored texts, which typically suffer from duplication, frequent omissions, and widely varying writing styles, the book's careful editing has averted these common pitfalls. However, an effort to ensure uniformity in some chapters has led to too much rigid conformity to style. An identical template is used for all risk-management chapters, and frequent use of bulleted lists is not particularly engaging and may prove insufficient for some readers.

The text is generously supplemented, perhaps overly so, with 33 tables, 14 figures, and 24 call-out boxes. However, the book's front matter gives a listing of these illustrations for handy reference. Three appendixes are included: a sample water system checklist, a form for compiling relevant epidemiologic information about patients with Legionnaires' disease, and an example of a national surveillance form. The list of references is impressive, and the glossary of terms will be valuable to many readers.

Notably, this disease-specific treatise arrives at a time when public health officials in some countries are moving toward an all-hazards approach to public health preparedness. Even within this context, this text will remain an authoritative reference for many years to come, and the generic algorithm for ensuring water safety has utility beyond the immediate scope of the book.

The brochure accompanying the book recommends it to environmental and public health officials, healthcare workers, workers in the travel industry, certain researchers, and perhaps some special interest groups. I concur with that general assessment, although the book will be used more frequently by some of those groups than by others.

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Global HIV/AIDS Medicine

Paul Volberding, Merle Sande, Joep Lange, Warner Greene, and Joel Gallant, editors

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In 1988, Paul Volberding and Merle Sande published the first edition of The Medical Management of AIDS. The 6th and last edition of this authoritative reference was published in 1999, leaving a void on the reference shelves of HIV care providers. Twenty years after the original book, Volberding et al. now offer Global HIV/AIDS Medicine. Their aim is to make this "The first textbook aimed at a comprehensive approach to the management of what is truly a global problem." The first edition of Global HIV/AIDS Medicine has been extensively revamped from the previous textbook. Three new editors have been added, the text has been expanded from 38 to 71 chapters, and the 135 expert authors have been recruited from throughout the world.

The text is divided into 6 major sections: Epidemiology and Biology of HIV Infection; Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment of HIV Infection; Diseases Associated with HIV Infection; Prevention and Management in Resource-Rich Settings; Prevention and Management in Resource-Poor Settings; and Economic and Social Consequences of the HIV Epidemic. Advances in HIV medicine since the publication of the last edition are extensively reviewed in the first and second sections. The chapter on the molecular biology of HIV provides an excellent overview of how HIV and cellular proteins interact. Current practices in antiretroviral treatment are nicely summarized in chapters 15–18. In the last 2 sections of the book, the

authors address problems facing HIV care providers practicing in the developing world. Many new chapters have been written for these sections, including chapters on antiretroviral therapy in resource-poor settings, and malaria and HIV; also included is an updated section on parasitic infections among patients residing in the developing world.

Limitations of this book include the predictable minor duplications and contradictions between chapters written by different authors. Given the tome's comprehensive nature and global purpose, certain diseases are inevitably given short shrift to limit the likelihood of back strain among readers. Any person hoping to learn about progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, biliary tract diseases, outcomes of surgery, or manifestations of thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura in HIV-infected patients will be disappointed. In addition, the well-written chapter on dermatologic diseases is distinguished by the baffling lack of any images of the manifestations it describes. These shortcomings are dwarfed by the positive aspects of this book.

In summary, this is a magnificent work by a group of expert editors and world-class authors. This volume should be a part of every reference collection and an essential tool for any serious provider of HIV care.

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Immigrant Medicine

Patricia F. Walker and Elizabeth D. Barnett, editors

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The United States is experiencing its largest wave of immigration since the beginning of the 20th century, and immigrants are making their way to every region, city, and town. As a result, medical professionals are increasingly called on to care for persons of diverse cultures and ethnicity. Providing care that is culturally sensitive and appropriate is a challenge. In addition to substantial language, cultural, legal, and financial barriers, physicians are faced with medical conditions that they may not have seen before, including unusual infectious diseases and complex, heartbreaking mental health and social issues.

Immigrant Medicine provides, in 1 handy, compact reference, a comprehensive discussion of the issues involved in the compassionate and competent care of refugees and immigrants. The 78 contributors to this reference represent a "Who's Who" of experts in their respective fields. The book is divided into 8 sections on immigrant medicine: 1) introduction; 2) medical screenings and immunizations; 3) epidemiology of diseases and disorders; 4) major diseases and disorders; 5) additional diseases and disorders; 6) chronic illness; 7) mental health and illness; and 8) special issues.

The editors begin with an excellent introduction on the magnitude and scope of immigrant health. The second chapter, "Compassion," is unique in that the author, David R. Shim, proposes that compassion can be learned. He challenges the reader to contemplate the suffering that so many in the world are forced to endure and the difference between acting more compassionately and genuinely being more compassionate. For the most part, subsequent chapters and content flow in a logical sequence to such key areas as cultural competence before moving on to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of specific diseases and disorders.

Topics are relevant to practitioners new to immigrant medicine as well as those who are more experienced. For the clinician outside of academic medical centers or special immigrant clinics, language services and payment often present substantial barriers to care. The chapters on language assistance and communicating with patients who have a limited understanding of English describe a more "nuts and bolts" approach to accessing and financing interpreter services, in addition to the legal requirements for language assistance.

Sections 3–6 are particularly helpful for physicians who treat immigrants. Provided in these sections are expanded differential diagnoses by organ system, country of origin, latency period, and race and ethnicity for syndromes such as fever, diarrhea, eosinophilia, and skin problems. Also included are diseases not normally considered in residents of North America. Specific infectious diseases are described in detail, although some diseases are intermingled with syndromes in one section, and additional diseases and disorders are listed alphabetically in another. Chapters on individual diseases are well written. Summaries of therapeutic options are provided, but understandably do not address all of the nuances of treatment. No one textbook can stay abreast of recent advances and changing recommendations. Physicians lacking experience in the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases may need to access additional therapeutic information in the literature or request the recommendations of infectious diseases experts.