For example, the chapter "Care of the Suicidal Patient" includes tables on risk factors, the odds of suicide with a particular psychiatric disorder, components of a suicide evaluation, and treatment issues. A table on clinician reactions to suicide is provided in an effort to prepare practitioners for their own emotions after a suicide. The chapter "Psychopharmacology in the Medical Setting" summarizes basic pharmacokinetics and includes a table on drugs that induce or inhibit hepatic metabolism of other medications. Also included is information on drug interactions with commonly prescribed psychotropic medications. Drug-drug interactions are a critically overlooked aspect of hospital medicine, and these tables are a welcomed addition. Two chapters on patients with neurologic conditions discuss seizure disorders, movement disorders, multiple sclerosis, and other conditions.

Because the Handbook attempts to be comprehensive, the chapters are brief and cover many areas in a summary if not superficial manner. One, entitled "Limbic Music," is a brief refresher on the importance of emotions in this part of the central nervous system. A number of chapters address special conditions such as the difficult patient, the aggressive or impulsive patient, and the geriatric patient. In the concluding chapters, the Handbook covers systems issues, including psychiatry and primary care, cost-effectiveness, quality assurance, and research.

The Handbook provides a general clinical guide and overview for the nonpsychiatric physician in the general hospital setting. This newest edition will be a useful reference for the emergency room, hospital inpatient or outpatient setting, or home library.

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