

This book lists clearly the regulations and the occupational health hazards and is a helpful guide with practical audits and check lists. It deals in depth with the duties of employers and then gives valuable advice on maintenance of premises with particular reference to fire risks, visual display units, electrical hazards and maintaining equipment. Detailed advice is given on cross-infections with emphasis on waste disposal, hepatitis and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The need for accident reporting is detailed, with a reminder about having planned first aid procedures rather than an ad hoc system. The book is greatly enhanced by 14 pages of audit protocols and data recording sheets which clearly have been well tried in general practice settings.

If I have not convinced you that you need two copies (one for the practice manager and one for the partners and registrar (trainee)) ask yourself the following questions: do I know the hepatitis B status of all the staff in the practice?; when was the last time there was a fire drill in the practice?; does the autoclave meet British Standard BS 3970?; do I know the display screen equipment regulations 1992?; what cold chain integrity checks are performed on vaccines in the practice?; and if, when there is no general practitioner or nurse on the premises, a patient with chest pain has a cardiac arrest, have the other practice staff been instructed in cardiopulmonary resuscitation?

This book can improve the quality of safety in your practice and may save the publicity and humility of a prosecution.

ROBIN STEEL  
*General practitioner, Worcester*

**FAMILIES COPING WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA: A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE TO FAMILY GROUPS**

*Jacqueline M Atkinson and Denise A Coia*  
Wiley, Chichester (1995)  
284 pages. Price £14.95

Care in the community can quite often mean care by relatives. The ways in which families can support and sustain people with schizophrenia and, conversely, the contributions of families towards the exacerbation of schizophrenic illness in sufferers are therefore topics of major importance. This book comprehensively reviews the existing research in this area. It also deals with the practical business of setting up support groups and self-help groups for relatives of patients with schizophrenia. The different types of groups and various ways in which relatives can be helped are carefully described and the published data on the effectiveness of these groups are extensively reviewed.

The book is well written, with clear headings, and is a useful reference source for work in this area.

It is essential reading for any community psychiatrist or community psychiatric nurse who is actively involved in the long-term care of patients with schizophrenia. For any general practitioner who has a special interest in the care of mentally ill people, again it would be a useful book.

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**THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND**

**MINOR SURGERY FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS**

**20-21 March 1996**

A two day practical workshop on all aspects on minor surgical procedures including basic surgical techniques, cysts lipomas and abscesses, local anaesthesia, infection control, dermatological surgery, medico legal matters, joint injection, varicose veins and ingrowing toenails.

**MANAGEMENT OF SPORTS INJURIES**

**25-26 April 1996**

The College is holding a two day meeting in association with the British Orthopaedic Sports Trauma Association. The programme is led by an international faculty and will cover a wide range of issues related to the management of Sports Trauma including posterior cruciate ligament, patella tendinitis, shoulder instability in swimmers, and ankle arthroscopy. There is a free paper session and any submissions should be sent to the department by the end of December.

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