References


The latest edition of Coovadia’s Paediatrics and Child Health now includes his name in the title, testimony to his involvement in the book since the first edition was published 25 years ago. This 6th edition improves on an already excellent book. It is similar in length and format to the previous edition, but subtle design changes such as more prominent headings make the layout of chapters easier to follow, and highlighted text boxes stress important points or core information.

The structure and content of many of the chapters have in most instances undergone fairly minor revisions. However – worth mentioning because of their popularity as examination topics – the community paediatrics, genetics, HIV and tuberculosis chapters have been significantly updated. The sections covering the diagnosis of TB, management of drug-resistant TB, and TB and HIV co-infection stand out as being highly relevant, up-to-date information. Management of HIV, and specifically practical aspects of antiretroviral therapy, is expanded on in this edition.

The index is abbreviated compared with the previous edition (half the number of pages), but still seems reasonably comprehensive and easy to use.

Coovadia’s Paediatrics and Child Health is a very valuable text for general paediatrics. It is an ideal textbook for undergraduate medical students in a southern African context and for candidates preparing for the Diploma in Child Health or specialist paediatric exams, as well as for any doctor working in paediatrics.

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