

Preface

Since the first edition of *Management of Antimicrobials in Infectious Disease: Impact of Antibiotic Resistance* was published in 2001, a myriad new or increased disease management issues with implications for antibiotic resistance have appeared on the landscape and many continue to challenge us. Consequently, this book has been updated substantially.

The book is intended as a resource to provide practical guidelines for generalist physicians and mid-level practitioners, as well as infectious disease specialists. We designed this book to serve as a resource for evidence-based advice about antimicrobial treatment of infectious diseases encountered in both the hospital and outpatient settings.

Our goal is to facilitate an understanding of commonly encountered infectious pathogens as well as rational approaches to the management of associated diseases. Optimal antimicrobial use is essential in this era of escalating antibiotic resistance and an understanding of appropriate use of antimicrobials, particularly in light of resistant pathogens, is necessary for clinicians engaged in front-line care.

The book focuses on the importance of appropriate diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases with an emphasis on special aspects of treatment necessitated by the growing problem of antibiotic resistance.

Our book is arranged with chapters focusing on pathogens, followed by chapters focusing on clinical conditions. This strategy was undertaken to provide the clinician two different, yet complementary ways of understanding and managing a clinical problem. In addition, areas such as strategies to promote appropriate antimicrobial use and future trends in treatment and antimicrobial resistance are included to more fully explicate the message of appropriate use of antimicrobials.

It is our hope that this book will disseminate practical knowledge that will improve the quality of medical care and help in addressing the ongoing threat of antimicrobial resistance.

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