



The Merck Manual of Medical Information (Merck Manual Home Health Handbook (Quality))

By Robert Berkow

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Written by over 200 medical experts, this manual covers human diseases and disorders, from pregnancy and infancy through adult maturity, as well as providing details of treatment options. This edition has been updated and written especially for the lay person for use at home.

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Editorial Review

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Need to find the definition of a medical term *and* comprehend it? Need fast information about your child's illness? Need help defining that redness in your eye? Or maybe you need a reality check on the progress of your pregnancy. For the first time, Merck--the leader in medical research since 1899--has opened its treasure chest of medical knowledge to the general public.

The team of nearly 200 experts, consultants, and authors has assembled a body of information so vast that listing select items fails to do it justice. *The Merck Manual* provides reams of useful medical information, ranging from fundamentals such as anatomy to crisp, easily understood descriptions of complicated diseases. Clear drawings of basic anatomical details and helpful sidebars that define terms and proffer advice are invaluable features, as is the up-to-date counsel on choosing the right form of exercise.

The Merck Manual's 30-page section on drugs is itself an excellent resource. Here you'll find descriptions of the biological impact of high-powered pharmaceuticals, plus a table of drugs that put the elderly at risk. Its five appendixes on such topics as legal issues and commonly used medical terms segue handily into a guide of institutions that offer information and counseling for a multitude of medical conditions. This exhaustive volume clarifies both the workings of the human body and the geography of its demise, not to mention Western medicine's solutions to its failures. If knowledge is power, buy this book to arm yourself with a world of information.

From Publishers Weekly

This covers the same topics as the Merck Manual for healthcare professionals [El manual de diagn"stico y terapeutica], but for the lay reader. Some statistics, microbiology, and therapeutic information have been excluded. The section on pharmaceuticals addresses the issue of different drug names and includes nonprescription medications. Appendixes on normal laboratory values and weights and measures round out the well-indexed text. [This is also available free online at (www.msd.es/publicaciones/mmerck_hogar/index.html).DEd.]

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From Library Journal

At last, a consumer version of the Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy, a.k.a., the Merck Manual, the most widely used medical textbook in the world. With a few exceptions and some additions, this home edition contains nearly all the information found in the Merck Manual but written for the lay reader. The layout is accessible, with the book divided into sections organized around either organ systems or medical specialties. Each section begins with an outline detailing the contents of following chapters. Extras include sections on men's, women's and children's health. Cross references throughout the text are extremely helpful, and the line drawings are clear and understandable. Appendixes include information on legal issues, tables of weights and measures, common medical tests, trade names of generic drugs, and a resource listing of organizations providing information and support. Overall, this home edition compares favorably with similar resources such as the Mayo Clinic Family Health Book (Morrow, 1996. 2d ed.), avoiding a big, splashy presentation to focus on content. Essential for all medical, consumer health, and public libraries.?Kate Kelly, Treadwell Lib., Massachusetts General Hosp., Boston

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