

recommend this reference for family physicians, even those interested in geriatrics or in terminal care. Far better would be a short, practical textbook that focuses on management.

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Prevention in General Practice. Second edition. (*Oxford General Practice Series 23.*) Edited by Godfrey Fowler, Muir Gray, and Peter Anderson. 299 pp. New York, Oxford University Press, 1993. \$31 (paper). ISBN 0-19-262158-0.

Prevention in General Practice is one of a series of books published by Oxford University Press to address issues of prevention in clinical practice. According to the editors, this second edition is "mainly concerned with [prevention] activities in young and middle-aged adults." Other books in the series address prevention issues in children, adolescents, pregnant women, and the elderly.

This book is well written and addresses a wide range of prevention topics. The first eight chapters present background information about clinical prevention. In these first 100 pages the authors explore such subjects as socioeconomic influences on health, information management, communication, and methods to integrate prevention into practice. Each of the remaining eleven chapters examines a specific subject area, such as smoking, healthy eating, stress, prevention of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and mental ill health.

All of the authors are either from Oxford or London, England. The target audience for this text is the

health care professional in the United Kingdom (UK). Although many of the issues discussed in the text are relevant for all readers, some of the systems issues and screening recommendations are unique to clinical practice in the UK. Of particular interest is the discussion in the Appendix of the new UK general practice contract. This section explains the prevention features and expectations of this new contract, as well as new financial incentives designed to encourage increased emphasis on the provision of preventive services by general practitioners in the UK.

The strengths of this book are its clear writing style and the breadth of its subject matter. An additional plus is the view it provides of the British health care system and the initiatives presently underway to increase the emphasis on prevention.

An area where the book is not uniformly strong relates to the "how to" of prevention. In some chapters the authors do a nice job of providing the reader with suggestions about how to address specific prevention topics in the clinical setting. Other chapters, however, furnish good general background information but not as much about implementation strategies.

In summary, *Prevention in General Practice* can serve as a useful resource for the clinician who seeks information about prevention in clinical practice. This book also provides a glimpse at how one nation is attempting to integrate prevention into its managed health care system.

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