This 180-page book addresses the law that regulates the creation and maintenance of health records, and how access to the record is regulated. It sets detailed standards for all these activities. The book is targeted at all healthcare workers, together with the administrative staff and those who manage health organisations.

The author's style is informal, attempting to blend the duties and requirements that are created by the legal rules with the guidelines and codes of practice that have been derived from them. The result is a prescriptive guide to good practice in record keeping and numerous scenarios and examples are cited in text boxes to illustrate both good and bad practice. The style is directed at the entirety of the audience, which makes for interesting if not invariably relevant reading.

The book is authoritative and accurate, covering every aspect of the creation and use of health records. Paradoxically, its title is somewhat misleading, since the recurring theme is that if one follows the standards the book prescribes, a court appearance is made somewhat less likely. There are no illustrations but the text is helpfully interrupted by case studies, which assist in understanding the details of the rules applying to health records. Each of the 19 chapters is well referenced and the text is supported by both a glossary and detailed indexing.

The book fulfils the author's aims and reflects her wide experience as a teacher of law. Although not a book that every individual surgeon would want or need, it is, nevertheless, a valuable and most unusual compendium of information, since it gathers information from the diverse legal specialities of consent, confidentiality, data protection, evidence and judicial approaches to provide a single point of reference. The book will provide answers to the vast majority of the questions that emerge relating to healthcare records.

Head and Neck Cancer: An Evidence-Based Team Approach

ERIC M GENDEN, MARK A VARVARES

EXTENT P/H	217 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN	€119.95, 9781588905086
PUBLISHER	Thieme (Stuttgart), 2008
REVIEWER	Andy Burns
STAR RATING	****

This book deals with the contemporary management of head and neck cancer. It is a useful addition to the field as it is clearly and concisely written and well illustrated. It is aimed at providing surgeons and oncologists who practise in this field with an evidence-based guide to the subject.

Experienced clinicians will, I am sure, find this a useful review, while it will offer trainees a good overview for examination revision and for reference while training.

It is written in a traditional style with chapters on individual tumour sites. The emphasis on management is very surgical although each chapter has information on the role of radiotherapy and, where appropriate, chemoradiotherapy. The details of chemotherapy are very brief and there is only passing reference to targeted therapy with eGFR receptor antagonists.

At the end of each chapter there is inclusion of some case studies. These usually represent case histories from a range of presentations at different stages for that tumour site; the different treatment options are discussed and the decision-making process is outlined.

All sites and subsites are covered and there are chapters on 'the unknown primary' and 'carcinomas of the skin of the head, face and neck'. There is also a chapter on surveillance of the patient. This details regular post-treatment cross-sectional imaging and the routine use of follow up PET-CT, which is at variance to standard UK practice. However, it is informative and the case studies included with this chapter demonstrate some false positive investigations that can occur with this imaging modality.

All the chapters are well referenced. There are numerous photographic illustrations, which are generally relevant and of good quality. There are several line diagrams; these are of mixed quality and there are some errors and omissions in their placement and annotation. There is also an index that is comprehensive and accurate. In summary, this book gives a good overview of current head and neck cancer management that will provide useful revision for experienced and junior clinicians alike.

Atlas of Endocrine Surgical Techniques, 1st edn

QUAN-YANG DUH, ORLO H CLARK, ELECTRON KEBEBEW

EXTENT P/H	260 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£230.00, 9781416048442
PUBLISHER	Elsevier (London), 2009
REVIEWER	James Kirkby-Bott
STAR RATING	****

This book is the endocrine volume of a well-established American series aimed at describing safe surgical techniques. It is presented in A4 with text on the left-hand page and images, graphs and diagrams on the right. This is an attractive format but the images are very small: the CT scans are the size of a business card and very difficult in which to discern detail. Given that this is often a single