Handbook of Obstetric Medicine, 4th edn.

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ISBN: 978-184184737-5

New York, London: Informa Healthcare, 2010, \$100.00

The term 'handbook' is generally applied to written works intended to serve as a ready reference. Such books are designed to be easily consulted and provide quick answers in a certain area. The *Handbook of Obstetric Medicine* certainly fulfils all aspects of such a definition. Its 319 pages contain clear, well laid-out information that covers many common clinical situations faced by a provider caring for a pregnant woman with medical illness.

The fourth edition of the *Handbook of Obstetric Medicine* brings to the field a concise yet detailed resource to help understand pathophysiology and guide management of medically complex pregnancies. This latest edition reflects updated information in key areas where research has led to better understanding of pathogenesis such as with preeclampsia. The latest management strategies based upon newer publications

and guidelines have been included. Even users familiar with prior editions will be served well with the most current knowledge presented with simplicity and clarity in this fourth edition.

The basic format of the book with bulleted text, 'points to remember' boxes and tables is preserved in this edition. The book is written in two sections, the first divided into chapters by systems and the second discussing the differential diagnosis of common symptoms, signs and investigations encountered in pregnancy. As with previous editions, the tables are highlighted, uncrowded and provide information that is easy to grasp at a glance.

With its engaging practicality and its focus on the most commonly seen therapeutic concerns in the medically complex pregnant woman, this book is a 'must-have' for any practitioner dealing with pregnant women.

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DOI: 10.1258/om.2011.110023

Note: the author of this book is an Editor-in-Chief for this journal. The book review was commissioned by another Editor-in-Chief and the reviewer has no connection with the author.