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The Information You Need: Old Fashioned Texts Meet the Information Superhighway

There's a reason people call it practicing medicine - it takes constant effort to maintain your skills. You not only need to know what you know but what you don't know and where to find the information you need. As you prepare for your practice in July, consider what references you'll need at work and at home. You will also need to stay up to date on the literature and fulfill CME requirements after your board certification.

Following are examples of categories of texts and resources. There are many other fine options available that the reader may prefer.

In the Emergency Department

Most emergency physicians agree there are a few textbooks you'll need when working in the emergency department. For general information, you'll need a current EM textbook such as Tintinalli's or Rosen's. Before you perform infrequent procedures, a quick review of Roberts and Hedges is mandatory. If you don't already own these classic texts, pick them up on the ACEP Bookstore website. On every shift, you'll refer to a prescription reference such as the Pharmacopoeia, EMRA'S Antibiotic Guide, ePocratesRx, Sanford's, or the PDR. You may choose either text or opt for mobile versions for some of these. A radiology reference book such as Clinical Emergency Radiology and a normal variant text are very helpful, especially when you have to read your own plain films. A dermatology book with photographs is always handy, such as Color Atlas and Synopsis of Clinical Dermatology by Fitzpatrick. Your group or hospital should provide most of the above-mentioned texts, however, you may need to provide your own references, so come prepared.



Internet access should also be available so you can search UpToDate or Emedicine for general questions, PubMed for literature searches, and NCEMI for formulas (links are on the lower right hand side web page) and other quick references. McGraw-Hill's ACESSEmergency Medicine includes updated content from Tintinalli and other emergency medicine titles. ACEP Members receive a 25% discount to a one year subscription of ACESSEmergencyMedicine.com. Almost all medical texts are available at the ACEP Bookstore.

Speaking of PDAs, there are a few all-inclusive programs that offer great pocket references. The two most common programs that include pharmaceutical and general reference for emergency physicians are the expanded ePocrates Essentials and PEPID. As an ACEP member, you can get a discount on Epocrates products – 50% while you are still a resident.

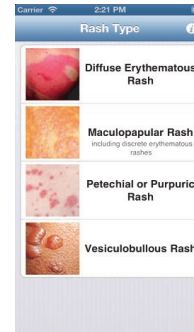
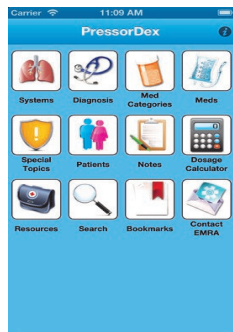
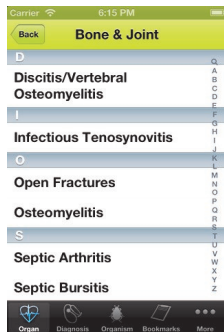
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PEPID EP Platinum Suites is discounted for everyone as part of your EMRA membership. From now through the end of June 2014, resident members can save 50% on their annual subscription. The [National Center for Emergency Medicine Informatics](#) (NCEMI) has a good discussion and recommendations on various programs. The iPhone, if that is your mobile device of choice, also has a range of imaging files available from plain x-rays to CTs and MRIs. EMRA offers a number of apps that put the right information at your fingertips, including [ABx](#), [PDx](#), [Peds Meds](#), [EM Rashes](#) and more.



Not in the Emergency Department

Your home references will differ based on your interests and needs. Most emergency physicians keep at least one current emergency medicine textbook and a system for staying up to date with the medical literature. Subscribing to audio summaries is a fantastic source of literature updates, and you can listen during otherwise wasted drive time. Check out [Audio Digest for Emergency Medicine](#) or [EM:RAP](#) which cover general topics, and [Emergency Medicine Abstracts](#) that reviews current articles.



You may be familiar with [Emergency Medicine Abstracts](#) and [EM:RAP](#) since they are included in your EMRA membership. Another literature review source with both online access and print versions is [Journal Watch Emergency Medicine](#). Online features include a searchable database of previous issues and direct links to their references.

Conferences are another great way to learn current trends, discoveries, treatments, and connect with peers in fun destination cities. ACEP14's inclusive 2014 [Scientific Assembly](#) is in Chicago, IL from October 27-30, 2014. The ACEP bookstore will be onsite during the conference, making it easy for you to pick up a copy of the above mentioned references. You can access ACEP's website for a list of [continuing education](#) requirements, courses, and publications. ACEP also has a [Master Calendar for Emergency Medicine](#) that gathers national and chapter events in one place for easy reference. Be sure to keep a copy of your CME certificates as proof of completion for licensure and credentialing.

Be sure to take advantage of your free online access to ACEP's official CME Publication, [Critical Decisions in Emergency Medicine](#). Senior residents receive the PDF version for free while in residency. Plus, after graduation, if you join ACEP, we'll continue your free access for an entire year! You'll need the CME, why not get it for free?

That's it for this month's *In Transition*. Tune in next time, when we will discuss " *Preparing for Practice: Warming Up Before the Game.* "

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