The Great Ormond Street Hospital
Manual of Children’s Nursing Practices

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The Great Ormond Street Hospital Manual of Children’s Nursing Practices
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It is a great pleasure to be able to introduce the first edition of *The Great Ormond Street Hospital Manual of Children’s Nursing Practices*. Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children has an international reputation in the care and treatment of sick children. The underpinning nursing practice principles can be adopted by nurses working across all settings. We hope this manual will be viewed by children’s nurses across the world as a comprehensive evidence base which they can draw upon to support their day-to-day practice.

Healthcare for children and young people has changed beyond all recognition over the last thirty years. These developments have been in response to a number of factors including advances in medical science, technology and pharmacology, and more and more children are surviving long-term, life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.

Excellent nursing practice makes a significant contribution to the work of the healthcare team and the overall care of the child and family. As a result clinical colleagues, children, families and the public expect nurses to deliver high-quality patient care with exemplary nursing skill in a highly complex and emotionally charged environment. To maximise this contribution requires the development of sound clinical skills: an ability to critically analyse a particular situation; to gather comprehensive and relevant information to make an accurate clinical assessment ensuring early detection and recognition of deterioration; decision-making and taking appropriate action.

This requires a nurse to be well informed, knowledgeable and keep up-to-date. This can be challenging – to meet these many priorities, and balance the demands of practice in a wide range of busy clinical environments. It is hoped this manual will help children’s nurses to ensure their practice is evidence-based and up-to-date.

Predominantly written by nurses from Great Ormond Street Hospital there are a number of highly respected contributors to this long-awaited book from several organisations and clinical settings representing the breadth and complexity of children’s services. The coordination required to produce this manual has been no mean feat for the editors, Susan Macqueen, Elizabeth Bruce and Faith Gibson, whose tenacity is to be admired. The importance of collaboration across the wider healthcare team outweighs the challenges to produce this text which emphasises the delivery of seamless care across a range of settings and professional groups.

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