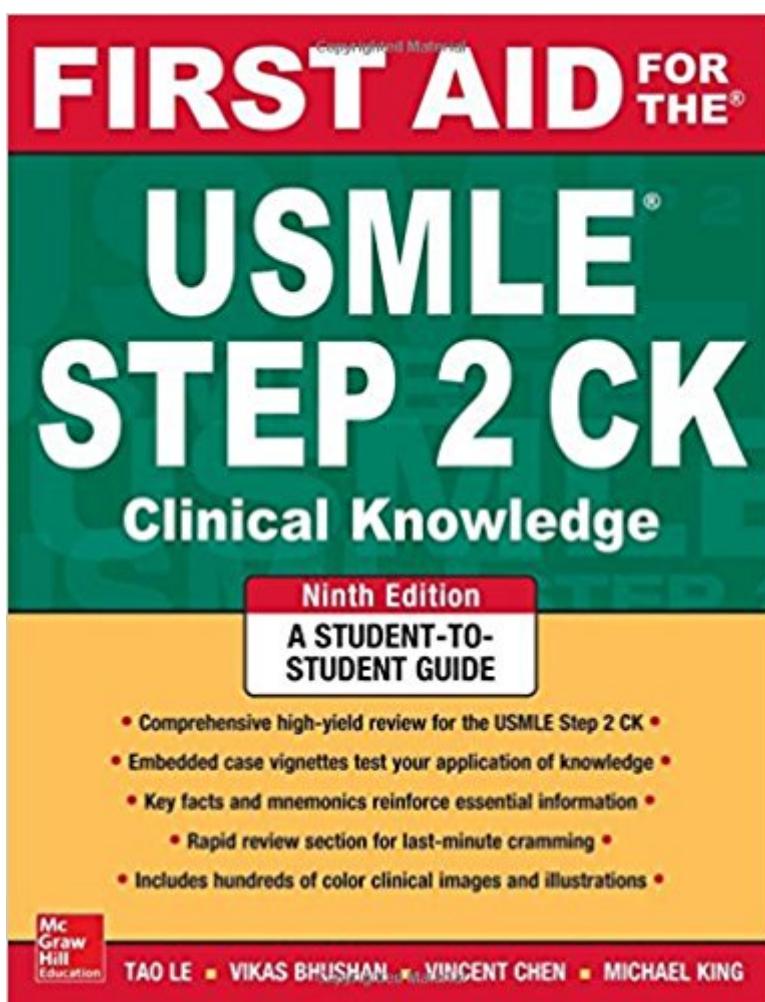


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First Aid For The USMLE Step 2 CK, Ninth Edition (First Aid USMLE)



Synopsis

From the authors who helped you pass Step 1, this is your high-yield review for the USMLE Step 2 CK. Completely revised to cover all core areas on the boards, including information on newly tested patient safety and quality improvement topics, First Aid for the USMLE Step 2 CK: Ninth Edition features:High-yield, bulleted presentation of diseases and disorders you need to rememberIntegrated flash-facts in margins test your knowledge at the point of learningEmbedded case vignettes test your application of knowledgeKey facts and mnemonics reinforce essential informationRapid-review section for last-minute crammingIncludes hundreds of color clinical images and illustrations

Book Information

Series: First Aid USMLE

Paperback: 592 pages

Publisher: McGraw-Hill Education / Medical; 9 edition (November 9, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0071844570

ISBN-13: 978-0071844574

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 0.9 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 154 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,838 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Internal Medicine > Pathology > Clinical Chemistry #8 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Safety & First Aid #9 in Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Test Preparation & Review

Customer Reviews

Vikas Bhushan, MD practices diagnostic radiology from his home-base in Los Angeles, California. Tao Le, MD, MHS, is Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Allergy and Immunology at the University of Louisville. He is also affiliated with the Division of Allergy and Immunology at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

If you have been on any forum or talked to other med students regarding Step 2 CK the inevitable line is: MTB2/3 for review and Uworld for questions. But there are better resources out there. Lets get one thing out of the way first: Step 2 CK success comes from the resources and studying you did in

your clinical rotations, how well you did in Step 1, and from Uworld questions and their explanations. The review book is much less relevant here than in Step 1. Importantly, however, a review book organizes your thinking and provides a single location for all the high yield facts. First Aid for Step 2 is a good source. Not a great source. But compared to the classical Mastering the Boards combo it is leagues better. It actually covers topics in reasonable detail, especially IM topics, that MTB seems to shallowly skim over. While it is not as easy of a read, it is also not utterly worthless. MTB is made for people who just don't remember the disease. FA is made for people who don't remember specifics in pathophys and basic treatments of disease. In short FA is more detailed which makes it harder to finish but more useful if you actually plan on using a review book. It is not perfect at all however. The pediatric section, while just as good as other review books, is horribly inadequate such that I annotated (from Uworld) to the point of wiping out all the margins in several pages in that book. The cardiology section does not have treatments for various arrhythmias nor talks about clinical decision making in such primary care topics as hyperlipidemia (the section is in the book, but the indicates for moderate vs high dose statins is not). The Gyn/OB chapters are passable but things like vaccinations to be given in pregnancy are not discussed, while other topics like screening for cervical cancer are presented as a wall of text rather than a flow chart. Other topics are covered with more or less decent consistency. But oddly some topics will mention a disease but never mention the treatment or next best step which is unbelievably frustrating for a test which asks 90% of the time what the next best step (not the pathophys) is. Again this problem is glaring in the peds section. The psych section was no better than the Step 1 version and even didn't include the ego defenses. It did have a bereavement vs depression table which is a high yield point for sure. No surgery chapter. Sure some of the topics are under the header of "assorted topics in EM" but that is just silly considering it is a fundamental rotation. In conclusion the book is good. Not great. If some sections were beefed up and the topics were covered more concisely and ALWAYS including treatment, then we are golden. If you plan on using a review book for Step 2 use this one. If you still prefer MTB 2/3 because it is an easier read then you are better off just doing questions.

Better than the 8th edition (which I also own). More algorithms, easier to read, more mnemonics and hints in the margins. Would recommend purchasing even if you own the 8th edition, which came out in 2012. Three years is a long time in terms of the Step and I don't want to risk missing out on any new facts. I still don't like the overall formatting, which is not in the exact style of the classic First Aid For Step 1 book. However, still lacking in spelling out what the "next best step" would be in most cases. Would still need to buy MTB 2 to complement this book.

This is a great book and is a perfect compliment to UW. I knocked off a star because as other reviewers have stated the book is disorganized. For example if you are reading about primary amenorrhea, the chart and or picture associated with that topic will be displayed under secondary amenorrhea. This happens CONSTANTLY throughout the book and if you are not careful when you read you might mix up the information. Other then this the book is great. Hopefully they organize the book efficiently in the 10th edition.

This is not the Step 2 equivalent to First Aid for Step 1. The outline format is not helpful for learning the information and it takes too long to process. Look for other resources, like USMLE Step 2 Secrets, for digestible information. Further, this book has multiple copy errors (e.g. restrictive and obstructive lung diseases are reversed in a table) that do not inspire confidence. Ultimately, I read one chapter then bought a different resource. 1/10 would not recommend.

Overall this review book is okay for Step 2 CK, but there are problems. Unfortunately, there are errors scattered throughout the book. Putting together a comprehensive review resource for the USMLE is a huge undertaking, but because this is intended to be a review resource, it should be factually correct. Some errors are blatant, other errors are more subtle. Tables comparing diseases are backwards. Lots of "high yield" info is missing. As of this writing, there is not an official errata available online. Luckily I found a forum post online with user-generated errata that I could confirm that I wasn't crazy. This book could be a lot better than it is right now. It has the potential to be an awesome review resource, but the errors leave you questioning what you read. The book is okay. I wish it was better because it has the potential to be.

Excellent conglomeration of high-yield review of diseases and diagnoses relevant to clinical medicine and the USMLE Step II exam. The format of the information is superior with sections describing signs/symptoms, physical exam/lab findings, and treatment strategies. Essential for USMLE Step II preparation.

Good content but the organization makes it 4/5. Sometimes there will be questions, but the questions will be before the section not afterwards as a review and then other times it is beforehand which can be frustrating. It is worth getting for Step2, but I like Master the Boards better.

Pros: has algorithms which are helpful and covers every tested subject. Cons: does not cover some topics in sufficient detail. Especially OBGYN. Overall a bare bones review of step 2 which may be what you're looking for. However even if you memorized the book you would still get a lot of UWorld questions wrong.

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