In the tradition of the first six editions, this seventh edition of the *Manual of Pediatric Anesthesia* is designed as a concise but comprehensive pocketbook guide to pediatric anesthesia practice. We are honored and excited to join with the Springer Publishing family of anesthesia texts to produce this latest edition. Since its inception, this has been a book to be carried in the pocket or available on the desk for handy reference. With this edition, Springer will add an online version for even easier immediate pocketsize reference.

The Manual outlines the important considerations when anesthetizing infants and children, describes management problems, and presents a course of action for treating many of your pediatric patients. Each chapter also directs you to further reading. For the resident in training, it provides a compact but comprehensive source of current information concerning pediatric anesthesia practice.

The three authors have a combined total of more than a century of clinical experience in providing perioperative care for children of all ages having all types of surgical procedures. In recent years, our practices have extended outside the operating room to care for children having a wide variety of medical and minor surgical procedures as well as to provide pain management throughout the hospital.

In preparing this edition of the Manual, we have compiled an evidence-based approach based on the literature and fused this with our own experiences to synthesize optimal clinical strategies for each scenario. The information presented has been reviewed by all three authors and a consensus reached on controversial topics. In many instances, we recommend a course of action for a given clinical situation. When we do this, it is based on what has worked well for us. However, we recognize that others may have different ideas, approaches, and constraints on their practices that may require them to adapt to ensure a successful outcome.

It is now over 35 years since the first edition of this book appeared. Many changes in our practice have occurred during this time. Some occurred in response to the expanding scope of pediatric surgery; others resulted from the
progressive introduction of new anesthesia drugs and technologies, plus new visions of what constitutes optimal pediatric anesthesia care. It is satisfying that many of these changes were a result of the simultaneous proliferation of clinical investigations relating to anesthesia care for infants and children. We are now able to practice evidence-based anesthesia care much of the time.

Yet still, questions remain. The current debate regarding the safety of the use of general anesthetics in the very young child demonstrates that we must constantly be ready to meet new challenges and accept possible new concepts if we are to continue to deliver safe care to our youngest patients.

Children remain the most rewarding patients to manage. There is great satisfaction in the successful management of the tiny infant, the reticent child, or the many other children that you will meet in your practice. We hope that our handbook will help you to achieve this satisfaction.

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