

HANDBOOK OF TRAUMA CARE

THE LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL
TRAUMA MANUAL

6th EDITION

EDITORS

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PREFACE TO 6TH EDITION

It has been a rewarding challenge to coordinate, edit, revise and complete a project involving so many contributors. This is the 6th edition of the Liverpool Hospital Trauma Handbook and it has been renamed "Handbook of Trauma Care - The Liverpool Hospital Trauma Manual." This is the first edition of this manual to be published in a pocket-book format to allow easier reference.

The goal of this 6th edition was to involve more of the many people at Liverpool Hospital who have a special interest or expertise in trauma care and who have been leaders in trauma care at local, national and international levels. By making this Handbook of Trauma Care a multidisciplinary and mainly practical approach to trauma care, we hope to increase the usability of this manual for all trauma caregivers who will read and carry it.

The intent of this manual is to provide users with a solid, consistent and practical approach to managing severely injured patients. No two patients present with the same clinical findings and injuries and it can be difficult to generalise rules to cover all clinical settings, however, the principles set out in this Handbook are safe and will guide the user appropriately. There is no substitution for the guidance that an experienced consultant can provide and he or she should always be included in decision-making for difficult cases.

As our knowledge of “better practice” expands and the specifics of day-to-day management of the injured patient are changed or improved, future versions of the Handbook of Trauma Care will be published. Additionally, we plan to maintain this manual as a “living document” with regular updates online at the Liverpool Trauma website:

www.swsahs.nsw.gov.au/livtrauma

The impact of injury and its effect on life quality and productivity in Australasia and around the world remains vastly underappreciated. Injury is still the leading cause of death in young people and is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in older patients. All those who are involved in care of the injured patient are encouraged to think, ask questions, and attend as many lectures, workshops and conferences as you can to expand your knowledge and better your abilities.

SCOTT K D'AMOURS

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It is impossible to complete a project like this without the help of others whose names do not necessarily appear in the list of contributing authors. The editors would like to thank all who contributed to the Handbook for their hard work and suggestions as to ways to improve this manual over previous editions.

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