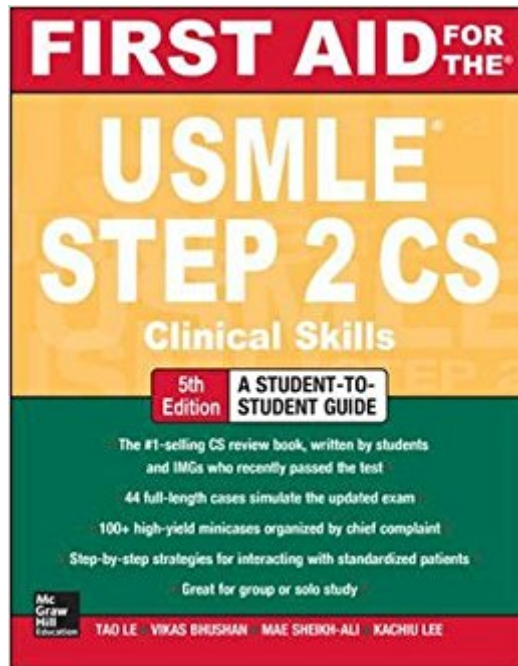


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First Aid For The USMLE Step 2 CS



Synopsis

The best-selling USMLE Step 2 CS review book--now completely updated to reflect the latest exam format! 44 full-length practice cases that simulate the real exam--including pediatric and telephone interviews as well as suggested closing statements for each case A revised and expanded set of minicases representing common complaints, designed to help you rapidly develop a set of differential diagnoses Updated content based on feedback from recent U.S. and international test takers Step-by-step strategies for interacting with standardized patients, including "difficult patients" Detailed descriptions of high-yield physical exam maneuvers that will win you points without costing time Time management advice to maximize your clinical encounters Proven study and exam strategies from students who passed the exam

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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This book was NOT edited according to the new CS format. It does NOT help with listing history/physical findings under each separate differential (unless you read the case discussion which only glosses over this info). Do not waste your time if you are looking for the most updated

information, but it is good for case examples (but you can purchase the older version cheaper if you just want case examples since medicine itself has not changed). Refer to the USMLE website for advice on the new CS format and read it all (not very long). First Aid should have waited a couple weeks to release this, or at least should have gotten advance info from USMLE before publication...big disappointment. I gave two stars because it did not teach me anything new and I'm still left wondering how the NEW CS is going to be...so it was only half helpful hence the 2/5.

This book is extremely helpful for preparing for 2CS. Across the board, I am extremely satisfied with this text and the 44 cases are a huge help in terms of getting accustomed to the 2CS. Practice these cases with a partner playing the patient and you're golden. Strength: lists all of the relevant questions during the Hx and gives sample patient notes that are on-spot Weakness: format of the real exam wants diagnoses and then both history + physical exam findings to support each one. If you read the USMLE website, they EXPLICATE that more is often not better. That is, a case might really have one or two differentials - that's it - with one or two findings that support. Then the tests to be ordered might just be two or three. FA, however, will list like 9 differentials and 10 tests to be ordered, some of which are completely ridiculous. This gives the student the impression that one should just list any/all things that come to mind, whereas the USMLE website EXPLICATES this will cause a student to lose points. So the only drawback of this book is that it goes beyond overboard with differentials and test to be ordered, whereas keeping it focused, simple and concise would be better.

Everyone (me too) worries a little over CS, but if you read this book, you will absolutely destroy that exam. The differentials and mock cases are good, but be sure to read some of the strategy sections. Insight into the grading is essential to passing. You can't just assume you're good in the clinic and expect to pass. Too many weird little requirements that have no bearing on real practice.

Overall I was dissatisfied with this book. The material in each case was a good review of differentials and diagnostic modalities but the layout of the cases made no sense to me. It would have been perfect if I had a friend who was a standardized patient who could act out each scenario because it started each case with an SP checklist that gave away things like "Act like you are in pain when the examinee presses on your right, upper abdomen." Trying to use this to study from, I felt like it was giving away things before I had even gotten to the history. I wish they would reorganize the cases so that the information is presented like you would receive it in a patient

encounter....chief complaint, then HPI, PMH, etc.....then physical exam findings....then the write up and tests ordered for the case. Another big problem I had with the book was that the exam now requires you to justify each entry on your differential diagnosis with information from your history and physical exam. Using this book to prepare didn't really help me prepare for this part...the book simply focuses on which items should be on a differential and which tests to order. I felt like I was a little burned by this on test day because my justifications for some of the differential items was really weak. Finally, a word on the cases themselves....the cases in the book were vastly misleading from what I got on exam day. Those in the book are deliberately vague and present symptoms that easily lead you to many items on your differential. For example, a case in the book might have a woman with dyspareunia who has had prior surgery but also suggests cyclical pain, but also has a history of being assaulted. So you could easily come up with several things: adhesions, endometriosis, anxiety, etc. On test day, the actual cases were very cut and dry pointing to a single diagnosis with nothing even in the ROS to point to anything else so justifying items on the differential was tenuous at times. In summary, the book had some good material for review but I would not use it exclusively to study from.

All you need for this exam. Just took my CS. Won't need more than 2 weeks part-time prep for the test. Go over the mini-cases twice and know the diagnostic studies to be ordered for each DDx. Don't bother with the Kaplan or other books. Practice your timing for both writing notes and patient interaction.

There are not many resources for the STEP II CS. I suppose, it is because this book covers everything that one needs to know for the USMLE II CS.

Absolutely love it, a must buy book!!!! It's clear, precise, and concise in all chapters and sections. No erratas so far. I don't think anyone would need anything more than this book for his cs exam preparation. The book was delivered on time and in a perfect condition and packaging. Content are as good and easy to read as First Aid for USMLE STEP 1 2015ed

I'm not sure you actually need this book to prep for Step 2 CS, but it was helpful to look through a couple weeks prior to test day. However, I can only speak as an American Medical graduate. I rented it (as opposed to buying) and I felt that was sufficient for prep.

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