DESCRIPTION

Being a good clinician is not just about knowledge – how doctors and other healthcare professionals think, reason and make decisions is arguably their most critical skill. While medical schools and postgraduate training programmes teach and assess the knowledge and skills required to practice as a doctor, few offer comprehensive training in clinical reasoning or decision making. This is important because studies suggest that diagnostic error is common and results in significant harm to patients – and errors in reasoning account for the majority of diagnostic errors.

The ABC of Clinical Reasoning covers core elements of the thinking and decision making associated with clinical practice – from what clinical reasoning is, what it involves and how to teach it. Informed by the latest advances in cognitive psychology, education and studies of expertise, the ABC covers:

• Evidence-based history and examination

• Use and interpretation of diagnostic tests

• How doctors think – models of clinical reasoning

• Cognitive and affective biases

• Metacognition and cognitive de-biasing strategies

• Patient-centred evidence based medicine

• Teaching clinical reasoning
From an international team of authors, the *ABC of Clinical Reasoning* is essential reading for all students, medical professionals and other clinicians involved in diagnosis, in order to improve their decision-making skills and provide better patient care.

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