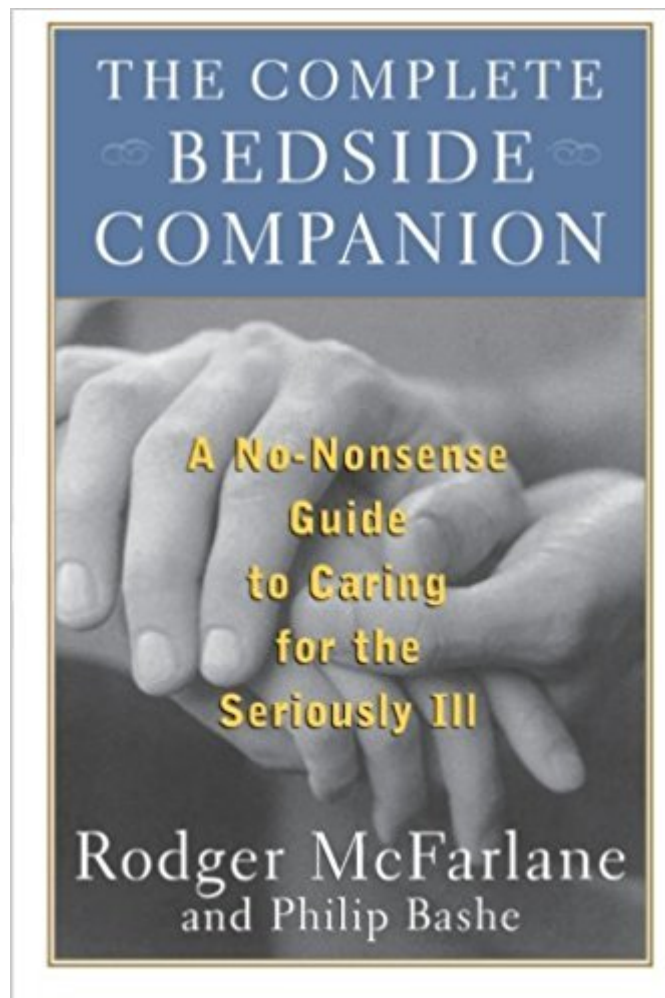




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The Complete Bedside Companion: A No-Nonsense Guide To Caring For The Seriously Ill



Synopsis

Nursing a parent, spouse, other relative, or friend through the painful progress of a terminal disease is not a road best traveled alone. The Complete Bedside Companion offers warmth, encouragement, and the medical, legal, financial, and emotional advice you need when caring for an ailing loved one. Drawing on the experiences of dozens of ordinary people who have cared for relatives and friends ill or dying from cancer, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, stroke, emphysema, diabetes, AIDS, and other serious conditions -- along with the practical wisdom of distinguished medical, legal, financial, and psychological experts -- this sound, compassionate guide provides field-tested advice on every aspect of caring for the sick including: Doing battle with insurance companies Managing symptoms such as nausea or pain Exploring experimental and alternative therapies Maintaining cash flow and coping with bills

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Customer Reviews

Caring for someone who is seriously ill is a major responsibility. It is both a full-time job that is physically, emotionally, and financially demanding, and a rewarding act of love. This book, written by two experienced caregivers, "walks you down the road from the onset of symptoms through the very end and afterward." It offers practical information, advice, and support for those who undertake this monumental task. The book is divided into two parts. The first covers the general aspects of caring for the sick: how to choose and deal with doctors, hospitals, and insurance providers; home nursing skills; legal matters; financial affairs; getting help from and dealing with family and friends;

support groups and preserving personal health; preparing for death; and the grief process. The authors are very supportive. They encourage caregivers to do whatever they can without neglecting themselves and their families. They provide contact numbers for national support groups in the introduction. The second part of the book provides information on caring for people with specific diseases. Chapters on cancer, chronic pulmonary disease, HIV/AIDS, kidney disease, heart disease, diabetes, and neurological disease include information on the symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, and course of the disease. Emphasis is on the practical aspects—how to test blood glucose levels, proper diets, dealing with impaired mobility, incontinence, and dementia. Stories from people who have cared for someone with the disease inject a dose of reality. They speak about the difficulties and the joys of being a caregiver. There is a brief bibliography at the end of each chapter. A series of appendixes offers referrals to organizations that provide information about specific diseases, social services, home and long-term care, and hospice services. The authors mention using the Internet as a resource, but they do not give any URLs. A bibliography of books and articles completes the text. The Complete Bedside Companion lives up to its subtitle. By explaining everything from bed sore prevention and the pros and cons of clinical trials and alternative treatments to paying the bills and handling the dynamics of a family during a stressful time, and offering advice on surviving the ordeal intact, the authors have written an extremely valuable book. It belongs in both reference and circulating collections in public and health libraries. Those facing a family health crisis should purchase a copy for their personal library. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Mike Maza The Dallas Morning News This is the best all-around guide we've seen about helping others cope with serious illness while still taking care of yourself. Diane Blum Executive Director, Cancer Care, Inc. This is an outstanding book, full of practical advice, warmth, and guidance. It is an essential guide for anyone who is striving to provide physical care and emotional support to a loved one. Dick Scanlan Poz magazine This "how-to" with heart is a must-buy for any potential caregiver or any care receiver.

The overall description of this book in the Review section seems to describe the contents and features of this book quite well, so I will simply add my impressions. I have recently begun sharing caregiver duties for a terminally ill parent and recommend this book as perhaps the best single introduction I have found. Looking at thirteen years of full-time undergraduate and post-graduate work, I found I had not a single hour of instruction in how to navigate the emotional and technically

difficult art of caring for a terminally ill patient. Such caring is not given much coverage in today's world, and I have to admit I was nearly clueless as the process began. I would not hesitate to recommend this book to those who are beginning this potentially beautiful yet potentially treacherous path, either as a caregiver or a patient. The book is a tremendous "how-to" resource and elementary caregiving, and it provides a decent list resources for further information. I hope to use the book to prepare my own way as well. My only criticism is it gives little help in things like preparing eulogies or funeral etiquette, and it gives little help in managing the sibling difficulties which can arise during the process of caregiving.

My Sister and I both owned this book and read it to each other over the phone (we live in different towns) so that we could make sure we were both viewing our Mother's death in the same way. I was actually caring for her, but she was very involved with my endless decisions I had to make. That was very helpful in showing me I wasn't alone. Now, unfortunately, I have to use it again because my dear Sister is dying. I have recommended this book to her 6 children who will be caring for her. This guide will help them as it did me, when they have a question in the middle of the night, or on the weekend when they can't reach the doctor. I know I would have made it without this book, but it sure made my life better!

Good Reading

This book is an incredible resource for anyone who is involved in patient care, from families to professionals & volunteers. I have purchased several copies of this book and have distributed them to family and friends in need of good advice and support. All have had an immeasurable, positive impact on their recipients.

A very thorough resource book for all who find themselves caring for sick, terminal, or aging persons. I found this a helpful source of information and reference to other sources of information when taking care of aging and sick parents. Check it out ... it really does provide help.

so much good information, definitely answered my concerns

Wonderful resource

Bought this book for myself after borrowing a friend's copy for a month. Great information. The price was excellent!

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