

Malaysian Immunisation Manual 2008

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It is a pleasure to review the second revised edition of this book. It is written by two prominent and distinguished paediatricians, Prof Choo Keng Ee and Dr Lee Eng Lim together with a committee of contributors. An authoritative reference on immunisation, it has been expanded and brought up date. Despite this it is an easy read as the manual is presented in a simple form.

This book begins with a chapter on principles and practice of active immunisation. It describes a brief chronological development of vaccines, highlights the vaccine mechanisms and touches in general on the adverse reactions as well as contradictions/precautions of immunisation. DNA vaccines, the more effective adjuvants and more novel delivery systems are seen as the future development of vaccines over the next few years.

Almost every major vaccine is represented, including the additions of three new chapters on pneumococcal conjugate, rotavirus and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines. These chapters include extensive revision to reflect new understanding of the disease process-its clinical aspect, diagnosis, epidemiology and preventive issues of each infection. It is also commendable that the authors have incorporated the local data for the epidemiological section. This is followed by a comprehensive section on the

immunisation in discussion; detailing the types, dosage schedule, route of administration, adverse reactions, precautions/contraindications related to each vaccine. Each chapter ends with a very helpful and practical segment on recommendations. These comprise of useful advice confined not only to children encountered in the clinical setting; it is also extended to the adult population and travellers.

The subsequent chapters cover on important topics on passive immunisation, anti-D and anti-snake venom immune globulins. The book concludes with a thorough coverage on the immunisation schedules for both routine and special groups, and a series of useful appendices.

This book provides a bridge linking scientific and academic knowledge on one hand, and everyday clinical practice on the other. I would strongly recommend the manual as a complete guide on immunisation to all doctors and health professionals who administer vaccines and immune biological products to the general public. I would also like to suggest that a second 'modified form of the manual should be rewritten and published. The modified form should incorporate the important points related to each immunisation and is aimed as a quick reference for both doctors and nurses in a busy clinic.