Reviews



The Merck Manual Illustrated

Programmers: In-house production team. Available versions: PC 386 (or higher) with 4 MB of RAM; Windows 3.1 (or later); DOS 5.0 (or later); VGA graphics capability. For Macintosh LC-II (or later) with 4 MB of RAM; System 7.0 (or later). Requirements: Monitor with 256 colors, mouse, CD-ROM. CMC Research Products, 322 Northwest Fifth Ave, Suite 201, Portland, OR 97209; (800) 854-9126; Web page, http://www.teleport.com/~cmcr/i ndex.html. \$95. (\$75 without the Geriatric Merck Manual or the Merriam-Webster Medical Dicitionary.)

Of all the long-heralded reference titles of the medical profession, perhaps one of the most auspicious and time-honored is The Merck Manual. An enduring information source for the generalist and specialist alike, The Merck Manual has finally made its pilgrimage to the technology age, via the efforts of CMC Research Incorporated. The company prides itself on the inclusion of the full text, as well as all tables, charts, and images found within each of its electronic medical publications—including The Merck Manual Illustrated. This product is an excellent adaptation of the print version of an indispensable reference for the medical community; it was prepared specifically to take advantage of today's personal computing capabilities.

This latest edition of this classic favorite has evolved to include the new challenges faced by today's physicians: genetic evaluation and counseling, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), cross-cultural issues in medicine, anabolic steroid abuse, and special considerations in performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation on infants and children.

The single CD format contains all 2844 pages of the 16th print edition of The Merck Manual along with the 2nd edition of The Merck Manual of Geriatrics and the current edition of Merriam-Webster's Medical Desk Dictionary. More than 5000 hyperlinks are included, as well as a series of color illustrations that help to depict various disorders and therapies.

Of course, useful search functions are included to make the most of the rapid query capabilities of today's personal computers. These functions make for a bevy of information that can be retrieved with a minimum of effort on the user's part. The combination of an electronic data search system along with hyperlinks avoids the need to continuously consult the back of a bulky textbook. Hundreds of high-quality, full-color illustrations along with printing functionality add to the usefulness of The Merck Manual Illustrated. This electronic version is an effective tool for continuing medical education studies, reference, and even as an aid in patient education.

Taking full advantage of today's computing technology, The Merck Manual Illustrated has features for placing electronic bookmarks for rapid access to frequently used sections. Notes can be created that can be "paper clipped" to a topic. Backtracking is a breeze, because the program keeps a history of where the user has been with each new step as well as providing a convenient "Go To" command. Utilization of the online dictionary makes for rapid retrieval of medically relevant terms without the need to exit the program—a useful feature indeed. •

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