TRAUMA RULES 2

INCORPORATING

MILITARY TRAUMA RULES

COLONEL

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Palmerston North, New Zealand
TRAUMA RULES 2
To our partners who tolerate our absence on frequent tours of duty

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Preface to the second edition

This second edition of *Trauma Rules* has been expanded (there are 14 new rules) and thoroughly updated to take account of changes in trauma care practice in the last decade. You will find that many of the rules have multiple references that give weight to your teaching or directions in the resuscitation room.

Perhaps the greatest change in this edition is the addition of military trauma rules. Military trauma is different. There is a different pattern of injury to civilian practice, different human resources and limited diagnostic and treatment facilities in the field. Where important differences exist these are highlighted. But military trauma care is not necessarily to a lesser standard. Indeed, by reading the military rules you will learn a new paradigm for trauma care and be exposed to cutting edge practices that may not yet be widely exploited in civilian trauma care.

We are sure you will enjoy this second edition: above all, learning must be fun!

Tim Hodgetts
Lee Turner
*Birmingham and Palmerston North*
2006
The management of major trauma may seem to be a complex issue but it can be approached in a systematic manner. This book combines a systematic approach with a novel series of trauma rules to trigger the memory when faced with a seriously injured patient.

Each rule is accompanied by the reason, the exceptions to the rule and, where appropriate, an illustration highlighting a key aspect of the rule.

Learning should be fun, and this book is designed to be fun to read. It is hoped that these trauma rules may be used by those involved in trauma education at all professional levels to emphasize the key issues in trauma management and to perpetuate a high standard of trauma care.

Trauma Rules is an aide memoire and supplements existing textbooks on this subject. Readers who require a more extensive understanding of the management of trauma are referred to the following books, also published by BMJ Publishing Group.

- ABC of Major Trauma
- Trauma: Beyond the Resuscitation Room

Tim Hodgetts
Stephen Deane
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London and Sydney
Rules are made to be broken,
That’s not what you should do.
For one of these days these rules
Will help you save a life or two.
The primary directives