

Signs & Symptoms

IN PEDIATRICS



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American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

From Signs and Symptoms in Pediatrics: ,
Adam, Henry M.;Foy, Jane Meschan

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American Academy of Pediatrics

Signs & Symptoms IN PEDIATRICS

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Task Force on Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

From *Signs and Symptoms in Pediatrics*: ,
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Preface

Traditionally, medical textbooks have been organized by areas of specialty: infectious diseases, cardiology, pulmonary medicine, and so on. This organizational strategy allows us convenient access to information on diseases we have the need to learn more about. For the practicing physician, however, this presentation has its limits; it is more useful when we know the diagnosis than when we are faced with making one. Very few parents or children come to us with a chief complaint of nephrosis, for instance, or of psoriasis. Rather, what we hear is that “My son’s feet and face are swollen,” “My daughter has a rash,” or even “My child has been struggling in school.”

Signs and Symptoms in Pediatrics is our effort to address the need of the pediatrician and other primary care physicians for information organized to reflect the way practice really happens. Here you have access to a concise yet thorough discussion of each sign or symptom that may be the chief complaint you are asked to address. Each chapter begins with contextual information on areas like pathophysiology and epidemiology and provides a guide to the history, physical examination, and laboratory and imaging studies that generate an appropriate differential diagnosis. Next are approaches to initial management and suggestions about when to refer or admit.

You will notice too as you look over the table of contents that we take seriously the responsibility of caring for children’s mental health as an integral part of pediatric practice. Mental health symptoms may augur the emergence of a mental health problem or impair a child’s functioning even in the absence of a diagnosable disorder, and they often complicate acute and chronic medical conditions. They may drive a child’s use of health services and affect adherence to treatment. For these reasons, symptoms of emotional disturbance have chapters alongside syncope and disruptive behavior gets the same attention as dizziness.

Not only are our authors expert physicians themselves, but each chapter has been critiqued by members of the pertinent American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) sections, committees, and councils, providing an additional layer of expertise and supporting our effort to make this reference evidence-based and as reliable as possible. Most also include a listing of helpful Tools for Practice, curated in partnership with Drs Rebecca Baum and Kelly Kelleher, as well as a bibliography of the most relevant AAP policy. We hope you will find this book a robust and easily accessible tool in our shared mission of caring for the health of all children.

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