

**MEDICO-LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN CARDIOLOGY AND GENERAL MEDICINE:
CASE SCENARIOS**

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Professor Catherine Tay and Dr Leslie Tay are to be congratulated for writing this easily digestible book for the medical practitioner. The authors have used simulated case scenarios faced by medical practitioners as a starting point for a set of questions and answers pertaining to these cases. They have directed it at medical practitioners who have limited knowledge of the law. These case scenarios encapsulate events which the medical practitioner may confront. The question and answer approach makes it easy to assimilate.

The scenarios cover a widely dispersed range of problems ranging from fitness to drive to medico-legal responsibilities of doctors giving assistance on a plane. The reader would find it an easy general read but may not find it an easy reference guide to use for a specific problem, as the cases provided are far-ranging and not all inclusive. This is understandable as the possible medico-legal problems faced by doctors are almost limitless. The book has clearly stated that the cases will cover mainly cardiologic and medical problems, but I suspect that there may be a slight writers' bias toward their particular interests.

An initial "short" (if possible) preamble of the principles of medical law would go a long way in helping medical practitioners gain a better understanding and appreciation of the answers to the questions.

Over the last ten years, there had been a number of cases which illustrated how the Singapore legal system had viewed the decisions of the English Courts. Using more of such cases as illustrations may be more effective than using those from the English Courts, as they bring the problem closer to home.

I have noticed that the answers tend toward an academic "ethical" or "legal" approach. This is where Dr Leslie Tay, as a practising clinician in touch with medical practitioners' anxieties, could help by injecting a more "practical" form of advice. In Singapore, medical practitioners work in various set-ups: governmental, quasi-governmental, teaching, academic and private. They interact with various risk management systems and are often at a loss, even with the help of their medical protection societies, when they are confronted with a medico-legal problem. It would be useful for Dr Leslie Tay to touch on these anxieties and perhaps, together with Professor Catherine Tay, provide practical solutions in the context of Singapore practices.

The appendices provided a very nice final touch to the book, bringing together some very relevant references for the medical practitioners.

I would recommend this book for medical practitioners who would like to have an overview of problems that may arise in the course of their practice. I think the book and its approach would make a good start for a series related to the various medical subspecialties.

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