

SIXTH EDITION

Medical and Psychosocial Aspects of Chronic Illness and Disability

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the memory of

Judy Mayer Irick, RN

1945–2015

Dedicate nurse, loving mother, loyal, and trusted friend.

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Preface

Each person is unique. Consequently, chronic health conditions are not experienced in exactly the same ways by all individuals. The effects of chronic illness and disability are individual, and encompass not only physical function but also psychological, social, and work function. The extent to which individuals are able to function in their environment is, however, not always a direct result of their chronic health condition but rather may reflect misconceptions, lack of understanding, erroneous attitudes, and prejudice on the part of those persons encountered in the individual's environment or other environmental barriers that impede function. An understanding of chronic illness and disability, their functional implications, and the environmental constraints that may be present can contribute to removal of these barriers and support increased functional capacity.

This text, like the four previous editions, is designed as a reference for nonmedical professionals and as a text for students who have little prior medical knowledge but who work with individuals with chronic illness and disability. Moreover,

this edition, like the previous edition, reflects the approach and philosophical underpinnings of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), which conceptualizes health as a continuum.

This edition has been revised and updated and, like previous editions, attempt to acquaint the reader with little or no medical background with concepts and medical terminology. In addition to basic information regarding physical aspects of each chronic health condition, the text addresses psychosocial aspects as well as the potential functional impact on activities and participation at home, work, and employment. Focusing on functional capacity in the context of personal goals and individual environment rather than focusing solely on physical effects of chronic health conditions can enable individuals to achieve not only optimal functional capacity but also increased quality of life.

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