Pain in later life is both quite common and disabling, and it differs significantly in terms of its etiology, diagnosis and treatment from pain in the general adult population. Part of the "Oxford Pain Management Library," this pocketbook will serve as a concise companion for healthcare professionals who manage older patients suffering with pain.

Older people often have complicated co-morbidities, have a high prevalence of mental health problems (e.g. anxiety, cognitive impairment, and depression) and respond to treatment in different ways compared to younger people. Their specific needs are rarely discussed specifically in more general texts.

Concise chapters in this handbook summarize up-to-date research literature in a practical style that has direct relevance to busy clinicians. Introductory chapters include the epidemiology of pain in older people as well as the proper assessment of older patients with pain conditions. Later chapters focus on specific painful conditions common in the elderly, including arthritis and rheumatism, osteoporosis, abdominal pain, and cancer.