This handbook provides a quick review of fluids and electrolytes, focusing on the essential clinical facts that nurses need to interpret laboratory tests and implement swift, appropriate patient care. Information is presented in a quick-reference bulleted format, with numerous illustrations and flow charts.

Every major fluid, electrolyte, and acid-base imbalance is covered, with key points on pathophysiology, causes, signs and symptoms, diagnostic test results, and management. A chapter focuses on disorders that cause imbalances, particularly heart failure, respiratory failure, burns, acute and chronic renal failure, and excessive fluid loss. Treatments for fluid imbalances are also covered, including I.V. replacement therapy, TPN, transfusions, and renal dialysis.

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