This full-color handbook is a quick-reference guide to identification, interpretation, and intervention for more than 100 signs and symptoms that indicate urgent, life-threatening, or limb-threatening situations.

Each entry concisely describes a sign or symptom and presents succinct, bulleted information on each possible urgent medical cause—typical history and physical exam findings, associated signs and symptoms, emergency interventions, nursing considerations, and follow-up. Recurring icons include Alert, Clinical Picture (charts visually comparing clusters of abnormal findings), and Act Now (specific immediate interventions needed). Appendices cover toxic drug-drug interactions, dangerous drug-herb interactions, and potential agents of bioterrorism.