

Foreword

Caring for fistula patients and nursing them back to full physical and mental health can be one of the most challenging and also rewarding tasks undertaken by nurses.

Without treatment, these girls and women are often in a dreadful state – physically unwell, depressed, bereaved and socially ostracised, with little or no hope of relief. After successful treatment, they can blossom back to life, all the possibilities of their worlds opening up to them again. It can be a hard journey, however, sometimes with more than one painful procedure needed for a successful outcome. The importance of the treatment being the ‘best possible’ cannot be overestimated.

The surgery cannot succeed without proper pre-, peri- and post-operative care. The patients undoubtedly recover better with high quality care – meaning the truly holistic, generous, selfless care of a nurse who has the skills, understanding and determination to help these very vulnerable patients. The author of this book is one of these very special nurses, making a wonderful difference to the recovery and to the lives of fistula patients.

This book will be an excellent guide and inspiring companion to fistula nurses everywhere, and will contribute to the successful treatment of fistula patients wherever it is used.

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