

The Handbook
of
Clinical Pathology
2 N D E D I T I O N

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Preface

The *Handbook of Clinical Pathology* (HCP) is intended to be a succinct reference for physicians and other health care professionals and to serve as a primary resource for medical students and students in laboratory medicine–related fields. This second edition of the HCP reflects the evolution of clinical laboratory testing since the first edition was published in 1992. There has been a general restructuring of the sequence and discussion of subjects. Some have been expanded to create new chapters because of their growing importance in diagnosis; others have been condensed.

This edition of the HCP continues to emphasize clinical test interpretation and appropriate test selection. New chapters on specialized types of testing and new technology include those covering inherited metabolic disease (Chapter 22), molecular diagnosis (Chapters 24 and 34), viral infections (Chapter 32), pediatric laboratory medicine (Chapter 35), and andrology and fertility assessment (Chapter 36). All other chapters have been completely updated, and there are tables, figures, and algorithms for quick reference.