In the constant evolution of healthcare services, historical stereotypes and a siloed approach to care delivery have become antiquated. Critical care now starts in the emergency department and, in many cases, the prehospital arena. In the same breath, emergency medicine is perpetuated within the confines of a critical care unit, step-down unit, medical surgical floor, and in the corridors of hospitals when rapid response activations, stroke alerts, ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) alerts, and sepsis response team alerts are initiated. Additionally, the changing workforce demographics, a need for succession planning, increased and accessible education, mentorship, and recruitment are essential to maintain and prepare qualified critical care nurses for the future.

Priorities in Critical Care Nursing, 7th Edition provides a systematic approach in presenting key elements of critical care nursing in a digestible and user-friendly learning format. The authors present complex information in a manner that ensures the reader understands not just the what, but the how and why of critical care assessment, diagnostic evaluations, and interventions. Critical thinking and application of key concepts are demonstrated in case study scenarios for clinicians to review and apply in their own practice setting.

The course focuses on the priorities in critical care nursing. It encourages the clinician to build on established nursing knowledge to facilitate the critical care needs of acutely or chronically ill patients. Priorities in Critical Care Nursing, 7th Edition covers the many common pathologies in the following systems: cardiovascular, pulmonary, neurologic, renal, endocrine, and multisystem disease states such as sepsis and trauma. The textbook aligns pathologies and medical diagnoses with the nursing process, including nursing actions, core to professional nursing practice across all settings.