This textbook is designed as a practical approach to understanding the health of women in a maternity context and the health of their newborns. Women in our society are becoming empowered to make informed and responsible choices regarding their health and that of their children, but to do so they need the encouragement and support of nurses who care for them. This textbook focuses on the reproductive issues of women throughout the lifespan and arms the student or practicing nurse with essential information to care for women and their families, to assist them to make the right choices safely, intelligently, and with confidence. Since the health care focus of women and their families has expanded well beyond our nation’s borders, more cultural and global aspects of maternity and women’s health care have been added to this third edition. The United States is part of the international community, and as such must understand and respect diverse cultures and their customs to truly play an important role as a global partner. Nurses care for a variety of women from many continents, thus they have to be armed with appropriate tools to meet their client’s diverse needs. Also more evidence-based research findings have been included in this third edition for nurses to validate their practice and interventions.