There are few written resources that specifically address the role, responsibilities and operational settings of today's diver medic. Diving medicine textbooks and related publications are invariably directed at physicians, scientists and diving medical officers. They do, however, contain a great deal of valuable information that can help to maintain and advance the diver medic's knowledge base.

One other factor besides practical relevance that causes diver medics to be reluctant to purchase textbooks is their cost, in one instance over $175.00. The Board thought it helpful, therefore, to generate a lending library. This would serve to further the Board's education mission while making the information contained within these resources more readily accessible.

Diver medics can check out any of the textbooks listed below at no cost. They must be returned to Board headquarters within 60 days of receipt. A credit card number is required to be maintained on file. If a diver medic wishes to keep any of these textbooks they will advise Board headquarters and a charge on their card generated. As the cost of these textbooks tends to vary, purchase price will be indicated at the time of each book being checked out. For additional information or to immediately take advantage of this offer contact Board headquarters at www.nbdhmt.org or +1.803.434.7802.

1. ‘Diving Medicine’ (ISBN: 978-0721694245), by Alfred Bove. This textbook is in its 4th edition (a sign that it has proven a valuable and popular resource over the years). Although its most recent edition is a decade old (2003) it still contains a great deal of information that is current and useful today.

2. ‘Diving and Subaquatic Medicine’ (ISBN: 978 0 340 80629 6), by Carl Edmonds, Christopher Lowry, John Pennefather and Robyn Walker. This is another enduring textbook, also in its 4th edition, and last published in 2002. A paperback version of the 2002 edition was published in 2005. The authors are Australians and their combined experience represents commercial, military and recreational diving medicine practice. Each clinical chapter is effectively illustrated and incorporates instructional cases from the authors’ files.

3. ‘Physiology and Medicine of Diving’ (ISBN: 978-1-4160-3406-3), edited by Alf Brubakk and Tom Neuman. This is the typical academic textbook. This means that a great amount of material explores basic and applied science behind the effects of pressure and the pathophysiology of accidents and injuries suffered by those working under pressure. Consequently, much of its contents will be considered as too deep (excuse the pun!) for most diver medic’s to fully appreciate. For medics with a thirst for advanced knowledge this textbook will fill that need. However, like most academic textbooks it comes with a pretty hefty price tag. So, you may want to check it out from a library or encourage your employer to make a copy available. The current version (2008) is its 5th edition so yet another venerable resource.
4. ‘Diver Medic Technician’ (ISBN: 978-1467986861), by Ronald Ellerman. This is a newly published (2012) paperback text. It is written in a format that should serve to complement the preparation of students prior to undergoing diver medic training. It addresses all types of diving operations and related accidents and injuries.

5. ‘Offshore Medicine’ (ISBN: 3-540-16201-1), by Robin Cox. This book is directed at the general medical aspects of offshore oil and gas exploration and recovery, with only a single chapter addressing divers and diving. Offshore Medicine is written primarily for shore-based medical control physicians and offshore rig and platform medical personnel. Aside from the diving medicine chapter, there are five chapters the diver medic may find useful, chapters that address everything from sanitation, disaster planning, and hypothermia and transportation issues. It is unfortunate that this book has never been revised and updated since it was first published, back in 1986. If you are able to check out a copy of this book from a library or borrow one, it will be worth a read. Given that much of the material is very dated, however, it might be difficult to justify purchasing a copy.