

Pre-publication Notice

MEDICAL RISKS: 1991 Compend of Mortality and Morbidity

Richard B. Singer, MD, Editor
 Michael W. Kita, MD, Associate Editor
 John R. Avery, Managing Editor
 (Praeger, New York, 1993)
 (approximately \$40, pre-publication price)

What is a "Compend" and what possible use does one have?

A compend is a compendium, or collection of worthwhile information, and the 1991 *Compend* compiles 50 articles and abstracts on various morbidity and mortality subjects in a convenient single-source desktop reference. In it will be found:

- *previously published* (J.I.M.) abstracts (morbidity as well as mortality studies, conveniently collected in this one place),
- *new information* (such as on AIDS) and
- *updated or revised* articles (like Pokorski's basic mortality methodology syllabus).

The *Compend* will complete a nice "trio" on the underwriter or medical director's desk, when placed alongside the 1976 *Medical Risks* volume and the 1990 *Medical Risks* (2-vol) set.

The *Compend* was commissioned in 1990 by AAIM on the recommendation of its Mortality/Morbidity Committee (MMC). The work has since been endorsed by the Mortality/Morbidity Liaison Committee representing the SOA and Academy as well as the HOLUA and IHOU. The intent was twofold: to produce a smaller-scale *Medical Risks* book with less delay than the previous large-scale projects necessitated, and to place in the reader's hands articles and commentaries never before collected or published in a single accessible volume. The *Table* shows the scope of the challenge.

Table

	<u>Cutoff Date</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u># of Articles & Abstracts</u>
<i>Medical Risks I</i>	1974 (1975)	1967-1976	1976	190
<i>Medical Risks II</i>	1985 (1986)	1978-1990	1990	377
<i>Compend</i>	1991	1990-1993	1994	50

The first *Medical Risks* book was published in 1976. It contained 190 abstracts, but required 9 years work by a large number of contributors in order to complete. The cut-off date for inclusion in the book was 1974, although some articles published through 1975 were still included. The two-volume 1990 *Medical Risks* book was an even more mammoth undertaking, compiling nearly twice as many abstracts as the 1976 book. Its production took the combined efforts of over 60 contributors, reviewers, and editors working from 1980 to early 1990, and the book was finally published in late 1990. Its cutoff date was 1985, with a few articles published as late as 1986 also included. The *Compend* has concentrated on material published between 1986 and 1991, and a few earlier articles not included in the 1990 *Medical Risks* book. It has been brought to publication in but three years time, better preserving the usefulness of the information contained within its pages by avoiding the kinds of delays that can make material become dated so very quickly.

The *Compend* is the product of three years work by a special monograph subcommittee of the MMC, consisting of Richard Singer, MD, Michael Kita, MD, and John Avery. Dr. Singer is Emeritus Director of Medical Research at New England Mutual, and is a consultant to the Academy where he teaches the annual Advanced Mortality Methodology Workshop. Dr. Kita is Vice President and Chief Medical Director for UNUM, and is also chairman of the MMC and Associate Editor for the *JIM* for mortality/morbidity. (Dr. Singer and Dr. Kita are both past recipients of the John Elder award, given annually by the Academy and the *Journal* for insurance medical writing and journalistic excellence.) John Avery is director of CMAS (the Center for Medico-Actuarial Statistics) of the MIB. He has guided the publication of many mortality projects sponsored by the SOA, the AAIM, and the Liaison Committee. A review of current CMAS projects (of which the *Compend* is one) was published in an earlier issue of the *JIM* (Summer 1992: 24(2):117-126).

The *Compend* will be a handy reference to many who need or who use mortality and morbidity data in their work — underwriters, medical directors, and health scientists interested in decision analysis, cost-benefit studies, and the like. It will also be a handy resource to those who have wanted a "syllabus" of mortality-methodology articles assembled in one convenient place.

Medical Directors should look for a pre-publication order form for the *Compend* in the next issue of the *Journal*. As in the past, copies can be purchased with such a pre-publication order form at a substantial savings compared to the publisher's retail price.

Corrections

Incorrect Table Format. — Two column headings were mis-aligned in *Table 4* in the article entitled "Hospital Use Behaviors and Associated Costs in a Health Insur-

ance Organization, Japan" in the Summer issue of the *Journal* (1993;24(2):115-123). The table is shown below with the corrected column headings underscored.

Table 4
Correlation coefficients matrix between the five measurements, age, and sex

	<u>No. of diseases</u>	<u>No. of claims for one disease</u>	<u>No. of hospitals</u>	<u>No. of claims from one hospital</u>	<u>Total No. of claims</u>	Age
No. of claims for one disease	0.48					
No. of hospitals	0.87	0.49				
No. of claims from one hospital	0.50	0.93	0.40			
Total No. of claims	0.77	0.90	0.75	0.87		
Age*	0.01**	0.22	-0.03	0.24	0.17	
Male Sex [†]	-0.20	-0.07	-0.16	-0.09	-0.14	0.00*

* Age in February, 1986.

** Not significant at 0.05 level, all the rest are significant at 0.0001 level.

[†] Male=1, Female=0.