

Current Comments®

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Current Contents/Health Services Administration: A New ISI Cooperative Venture with the American Hospital Association

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This essay announces the addition of a new *Current Contents*® (*CC*®) edition to our current-awareness line of products, *CC/Health Services Administration (CC/HSA)*. This monthly edition, tailored for health-services administrators, features journal contents pages from the leading health-care journals and newsletters. It also covers a multitude of ancillary areas, such as hospital quality control, plant management, health ethics and law, and social sciences. The essay highlights features of *CC/HSA* for all *CC* readers and their colleagues.

In January 1989, a new edition of *Current Contents*® (*CC*®) was added to ISI®'s most popular line of current-awareness products. The new arrival, called *CC/Health Services Administration (CC/HSA)*, is aimed at serving all those engaged in the administration and delivery of health-care services. This project has come about with the support and cooperation of the American Hospital Association (AHA). Recognizing the need for a product of this kind, the AHA worked with ISI through all the decisions affecting the new publication—appearance, format, contents, and distribution. This essay highlights for all *CC* readers some of the *CC/HSA* features, both for their own information and for passing along the news to others whose work might benefit from the new edition.

Topics and Disciplines Covered

At present, the journals covered in *CC/HSA* fall into 13 subject categories: "Automated Systems," "Health Law," "Human Resources," "Health Services Management," "Hospital Evaluation & Quality Control," "Library & Information

Science," "Management & Finances—General," "Nursing," "Plant Management & General Services," "Public Health Administration," "Social Sciences," "Newsletters," and "General."

The largest category of journals is "Health Services Management," addressed specifically to health managers and covering topics such as management of health programs, health/hospital marketing, compensation, and department/laboratory (clinical labs, pharmacies, radiology, and so on) management. Illustrative titles are *Health-care Financial Management*, *Hospital Materials Management*, and the *Journal of Health Care Marketing*.

The next two largest categories are "Human Resources" and "Management & Finances—General." The first includes journals on staff development and administration, as well as volunteer administration and benefits administration. However, nursing administration and staff development journals are reserved for the nursing category. Some general journals on human resources are also included, since the information they offer can be applied in a health-care environment. This journal grouping in-

cludes, for example, *Clinical Supervisor* and the *Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions* as well as *Employee Benefits Journal* and *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*.

The second category groups journals on management and finances in general. Covered here are management science, decision making, organizational analysis, operations research, financial management, and taxation. Among the journals included here are *Harvard Business Review*, the *Journal of Accountancy*, *Organizational Dynamics*, *Public Relations Review*, and *Research-Technology Management*.

Two other categories ("Newsletters" and "General") need special mention. Inclusion of newsletters serves a special need of managers. It is a useful grouping for readers who may need to locate this type of a publication regularly or in a hurry for general distribution in their departments. The newsletters covered are on a variety of topics, for example, *Health Law Bulletin*, *Hospital Admitting Monthly*, *Medical Staff Leader*, and *Same-Day Surgery*. Under the category "General" are grouped journals that may be of general interest. The category includes the most important medical-society journals, such as *JAMA—Journal of the American Medical Association* and the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and a miscellany of specialized journals, such as *Foundation News*, *Grant Magazine*, *Issues in Science and Technology*, and the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

The remaining subject categories include "Public Health Administration," concerned primarily with the administration and logistics of public- and community-health programs. The "Social Sciences" category of journals covers material that may shed light on social forces that affect or are affected by health-care systems. Finally, the "Health Law" category addresses legal and ethical aspects of health care—with journals such as the *Hastings Center Report*, the *Journal*

of Health and Hospital Law, and the *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*.

The above representation of health-care subdisciplines is, of course, fluid. Both the groupings and their size are expected to change as more journals are added and as certain areas and disciplines shift or expand.

Number of Journals and the Selection Process

At present, some 300 journals or newsletters are covered in *CC/HSA*. However, included in the planning and budgeting of its first year are an additional 50 journals. It is expected that, in the course of time, coverage will increase and change as new periodicals surface and others are recommended.

As for journal selection, many of the same criteria discussed in previous essays^{1,2} apply to the selection process here. Probably the most important criteria are subject relevance and editorial quality. ISI's in-house coverage specialists assess the quality of each journal under consideration.

Geography and language are two other criteria. For the purpose of this product, coverage is mainly of US journals, with a few Canadian, UK, and other European publications. Close to 100 percent of the journals are in English.

Finally, journal recommendations from outside ISI are also considered. These may come from journal editors, hospital administrators, or others in the field. The AHA, as mentioned earlier, works closely with ISI in coverage decisions as well.

The Readership of *CC/HSA*

While the initial subscriber base may be almost exclusively from the US, *CC/HSA* covers health systems, topics, and issues that may be relevant to hospital administrators

and health-care providers anywhere on the globe. Indeed, it may be argued, this edition of *CC* may be the most valuable precisely because the journals covered are for the most part US publications. By offering the vital key to these publications (in the tables of contents) as well as *The Genuine Article*® delivery service (mentioned below), ISI provides affordable access to periodical collections, otherwise inaccessible to many professionals around the world.

To estimate the size and nature of the initial subscriber group, ISI has conducted several surveys by mail and telephone. The potential readership is large—made up not only of health administrators and managers, but also of many in government (especially in the US Department of Health and Human Services) on the federal, state, and local levels. The typical subscriber is involved (centrally or peripherally) in the management or administration of health-care systems: hospital administrators, hospital librarians, hospital human-resources professionals, and nursing managers. Librarians might find *CC/HSA* particularly helpful in serving their administrative staff.

Format of *CC/HSA*

This *CC* edition is published in an 8½-by-11-inch size. Most of the space will be devoted to journal contents pages, an average of 200 per issue. Each issue will also have a listing of the disciplines and journals covered. Further, each issue will include the complete list of journals, with publishers' addresses, covered in *CC/HSA*. Finally, at the end of each issue, there is a detailed title-word index based on the article titles in the issue.

The layout and design of contents resemble that of other *CC* editions. As can be seen from the sample contents page here (Figure 1), horizontal bars are used to mark off journal groupings (into subject categories); this greatly facilitates scanning.

Journal titles are shown as they appear on the original contents pages. They too are highlighted, with horizontal lines across the page, for easy recognition and scanning. Also provided, to the left of each journal title in a distinct oval enclosure, is the accession, or *The Genuine Article*, number. (This number can be used for ordering tear sheets or copies of articles from ISI—all copyright fees included.) Following the journal title are the journal's volume and issue numbers and, below these, the full journal contents page.

Conclusion

A few final matters that will be of interest to potential subscribers: *CC/HSA* will be published monthly. The annual subscription is \$115.00. However, ISI is offering an introductory subscription for \$95.00 for 12 issues. (If you would like to receive a free sample to pass around to your coworkers or to help you in your own subscription decision, please refer to the information box at the end of this essay.)

Also of interest is *The Genuine Article* service offered by ISI to all its customers. If, after browsing through an issue of *CC/HSA*, you are interested in reading the full article from any journal covered, and if the article is not available in your local library, you can order tear sheets or a photocopy directly from ISI. Instructions on how to order copies are provided in the front matter of every issue.

This ordering service may prove especially valuable to readers of this *CC* edition. Those working in the fast-moving health-care fields have a great need for information but often not much time to acquire it.

Finally, *CC/HSA* is much like other *CC* editions—in its commitment to serving a particular group of customers in a timely and cost-effective way. Aimed primarily at the management community in the health-care industry, it ironically harks back to the very

Figure 1: Sample contents pages from *Current Contents®/Health Services Administration*.

R1053	CURRENT CONCEPTS IN Hospital Pharmacy Management	Macmillan Healthcare Information
VOL. 10 NO. 4 WINTER 1988		
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Developing a Successful Recruitment/Retention Plan for Hospital Pharmacy Personnel	4	<i>Darryl S. Rich, Pharm.D., M.B.A., and Gregory K. Aldridge</i>
Pharmacy Department Reorganization: The Managerial and Clinical Challenges	11	<i>Morrell C. Delcher, M.B.A.</i>
Profiles in Pharmacy: Kurt Kleinmann, M.S.	15	<i>Marcia S. Jacinto, Pharm.D.</i>
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Management & Finances—General

R0234	Management SCIENCE	Inst. Management Sci.
VOL. 34 NO. 11 NOVEMBER 1988		
Philip Heidelberger, Xi-Ren Cao, Michael A. Zazanis & Rajan Suri	1281	Convergence Properties of Infinitesimal Perturbation Analysis Estimates
Sunil Gupta & Zvi A. Livne	1303	Resolving a Conflict Situation with a Reference Outcome: An Axiomatic Model
Cynthia Fraser & James L. Ginter	1315	Competitive Dealing Strategy and Deal Value Escalation
Sven Axsäter	1324	A Sequential Lot Sizing Heuristic with Optimal Average Performance
Ward Whitt	1333	A Light-Traffic Approximation for Single-Class Departure Processes from Multi-Class Queues
George Tagaras & Hau L. Lee	1347	Economic Design of Control Charts with Different Control Limits for Different Assignable Causes
Edward P. C. Kao & Sheng-Lin Chang	1367	Modeling Time-Dependent Arrivals to Service Systems: A Case in Using a Piecewise-Polynomial Rate Function in a Nonhomogeneous Poisson Process
Gary D. Eppen & R. Kipp Martin	1380	Determining Safety Stock in the Presence of Stochastic Lead Time and Demand
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first contents-page project I launched over 30 years ago—also management oriented—called *Management's DocuMation Preview*.³ So, we seem to have come full circle. The 30 years have accumulated recognition by many—customers as well as other institutions.

Recently, my respected colleague Eloise C. Foster, director, AHA Resource Center, said, "We are pleased to be working with ISI to bring a valuable information resource to health-sciences librarians and other health-care professionals."⁴ Eloise is also

president of the Medical Library Association. The publication of *CC/HSA* culminates my long-term association and membership in that organization, dating back more than 35 years to the days of the Welch Medical Library project, Johns Hopkins University, where it all began.⁵

* * * * *

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(addresses are on the inside front cover of this and every
Current Contents edition).

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