

Appendix B: Method of the Study

This background paper, *Benefit Design in Health Care Reform: Background Paper—Patient Cost-Sharing* is one of a series of the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) publications on *benefit design in health care reform* that are being issued as part of OTA's assessment, *Technology, Insurance, and the Health Care System*. The paper addresses the available evidence on how patient cost-sharing affects the use of health care services, expenditures, and, ultimately, health outcomes. This appendix summarizes the method used for this report.

OTA contracted with Thomas Rice for an initial review of the health services research and economics literature. The focus of the review was on basic physician and hospital care for services not typically

related to mental and substance abuse disorders. The first draft of this literature review underwent extensive review by members of the Advisory Panel for the overall OTA assessment, as well as by individuals from the health insurance industry, the academic community, health care professionals, representatives of patients, research organizations, businesses, and Federal agencies. Dr. Rice submitted a final draft to OTA in February 1993.

A further revision of the background paper was prepared by OTA after considering all reviewer comments and further research. This draft was sent out for additional review to approximately 30 outside experts. OTA bears all responsibility for the content of this background paper.