

*Tools for Evaluating Health Technologies:
Five Background Papers*

September 1994

OTA-BP-H-142



Recommended Citation: U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, *Tools for Evaluating Health Technologies: Five Background Papers, BP-I-I-142* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, February 1995).

For sale by the U.S. Government Printing Office
Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop: SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-9328
ISBN 0-16 -045499-9

Foreword

Since the 1980s, the federal government has been actively pursuing a policy to encourage and sponsor medical effectiveness research: research that supports the evaluation of the effectiveness of existing medical technologies and practices. In September 1994, the Office of Technology Assessment issued its assessment of the successes and gaps in that endeavor to date with the report *Identifying Health Technologies That Work: Searching for Evidence*.

This volume contains five background papers describing in greater detail some of the research techniques discussed in that report. Each of these papers was drafted by experts in the research technique. OTA gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the advisory panel to the overall study and the many other individuals who provided valuable information and reviewed preliminary drafts of these papers. As with all OTA documents, the final responsibility for the content of these papers rests with OTA.



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Note: OTA appreciates and is grateful for the valuable assistance and thoughtful critiques provided by the advisory panel members. The panel does not, however, necessarily approve, disapprove, or endorse this volume. OTA assumes full responsibility for these background papers and the accuracy of their contents.

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Acknowledgments

OTA wishes to express its appreciation for the following individuals and organizations that provided assistance with this volume. These individuals do not necessarily approve, disapprove, or endorse these background papers. OTA assumes full responsibility for the volume and the accuracy of its contents.

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