

1 Findings and Policy Options 1

Defining Defining Defensive Medicine 3 The Extent of Dcfcnsive Medicine 3 Recent Factors Affecting the Amount of Defensive Medicine 9 The Impact of Malpractice Reform on Defensive Medicine 10 Defensive Medicine in an Era of Health Care Reform 15 Policy Options 16

2 Defensive Medicine: Definition and Causes 21

Defining Defensive Medicine 21 The Sources of Defensive Medicine 26 Conclusions 36

3 Summary of the Evidence on Defensive Medicine 39

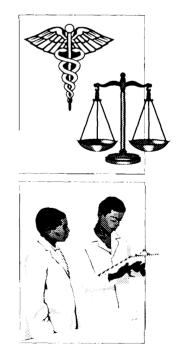
Evidence of the Extent of Defensive Medicine 43 Conclusions" 74

4 Impact of Malpractice Reform on Defensive Medicine 75

The Impact of Conventional Malpractice Reforms on Direct Malpractice Costs 76

Impact of Newer Malpractice Reformas on Defensive Medicine 81

Defensive Medicine and Health Care Reform **91** Conclusions 92



APPENDIXES

- A Method of Study 95
- B Acknowledgments 101
- C The Impact of Nonclinical Factors on Physicians' Use of Resources 104
- D Methods Used in the OTA Clinical Scenario Surveys 106
- E Detailed Results of the OTA Clinical Scenario Surveys 118
- F Estimates of the Costs of Selected Defensive Medical Procedures 128
- G Summary of State Studies on Tort Reforms 133
- H Clinical Practice Guidelines and Malpractice Liability 140
- Description of 32 Direct Physician
 Surveys of Defensive Medicine Reviewed
 by OTA 149
- J Detailed Critique of Reynolds et al. and Lewin-VHI Estimates 154
- K Glossary 160

REFERENCES 165

INDEX 179

