The Efficacy and Cost Effectiveness of Psychotherapy

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THE IMPLICATIONS OF COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

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BACKGROUND PAPER #3: THE EFFICACY AND COST EFFECTIVENESS OF PSYCHOTHERAPY



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Foreword

This volume is a background paper for OTA's assessment, *The Implications of Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Medical Technology*. That assessment analyzes the feasibility, implications, and usefulness of applying cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis (CEA/CBA) in health care decisionmaking. The major, policy-oriented report of the assessment was published in August 1980. In addition to the main report and this background report, there will be four other background papers: 1) a document which addresses methodological issues and reviews the CEA/CBA literature, 2) a diagnostic X-ray case study, 3) 17 other case studies of individual medical technologies, and 4) a review of international experience in managing medical technology. Another related report was published in September of 1979: *A Review of Selected Federal Vaccine and Immunization Policies*.

Background Paper #.3: The Efficacy and Cost Effectiveness of Psychotherapy was prepared in response to a request of the Senate Finance Committee. OTA established a special advisory panel to assist in the development of this paper; in addition, OTA consulted with the members of the advisory panel to the overall assessment and with a group of ad hoc reviewers from various mental health fields. We are grateful for their assistance.

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