There is data already available that could allow individuals to make decisions regarding maintenance of health if this information were known to them. These data consist of mortality statistics tabulated from death certificates and factors that positively correlate with an increased incidence of a particular disease as identified by clinical studies such as the Framingham and race was made by a group at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis headed by Doctors Robbins and Hall. Their publication in 1970 provides data to make predictions about the most likely causes of death in the next ten years for specific age, sex and race groups. Further, it provides estimates of the effect upon these chances of death by risk factors that have already been identified such as blood pressure, use of seat belts, use of alcohol, body weight and cigarette smoking. This information is potentially useful to everyone for health maintenance purposes, yet it would be difficult for most people to directly extract, from the current publication, the statistical data as it relates to them. A computer program has been developed to test the feasibility of providing health hazard appraisal information directly to interested persons. Since it is primarily medical history and present life style information that is needed to do a health hazard appraisal, computer conducted interviews are used to obtain this data from users. Where blood pressure and serum cholesterol levels are not known, they would need to be measured before the program is used. Immediately following the interview the computer does the necessary computations and table lookups in preparation for summary generation. Two types of summaries can presently be generated and are being evaluated. One provides an overview with total values and a risk summary and the other a detailed risk factor analysis by disease category in order of priority. The interactive computer program described is a means of making information which is important for the maintenance of health readily available.
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