The assessment of the quality of nursing care is unequivocally the single most important challenge facing professional nursing today with prospective reimbursement. As we move toward a prospective reimbursement structure, our quality of decision making will rely heavily on the data banks which computers can assist us in making administrative decisions. It is not surprising that each paper presented here discusses the use of how computers can assist us in decision making for the nurse manager.

The first presentation by Nancy O'Donohue and Mary Ramshorn discusses the microcomputer as a management tool for nurse executives. They will highlight three areas: personnel data, nursing care hours, and audit tabulation.

Sobie and Lichter discuss a computerized nursing documentation system on a microcomputer. The presentation by Lichter encourages data based nurse decision making.

Linda Edmund's paper describes how a computerized message function installed with the IBM patient care system at Stony-Brook was modified to meet multiple needs of a nursing service.

The use of a computerized position requisition system in a Nursing Division at Memorial Hospital Medical Center is discussed by Joyce Anderson. Here the focus is on the budgeting process and personnel administration for the nursing manager.

The presentation by Kathleen McCormick provides information on monitoring and evaluating an implemented hospital information system. Dr. McCormick leads us through stages and elements of evaluating a computer system.

These excellent presentations provide us all with either a new or renewed interest in what is to come. There are many implications for nurse executives--improved decision making, the promotion of financial data, and the creation of new and unique data banks to drive our decision making as nurse executives.