Title: Use of Microcomputers For Testing of Nursing and Medical Knowledge

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NURSESTAR is a microcomputer program that simulates a test experience for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for Registered Nurse Licensure. TESTSTAR is an interactive test authoring system that allows educators to construct their own tests and then allows the student to take the test on a microcomputer. Both systems were designed by Allen F. Joseph and Lynda S. Joseph of the Logical Scholar Company. An option for a drill and practice test mode or an assessment test mode is part of both programs. A performance summary, assessment of strengths and weaknesses, and question analysis with rationales and explanations for each response provide immediate feedback to the student. Group analysis and item analysis are provided for faculty. NURSESTAR and TESTSTAR are compatible for the IBM/PC, Apple II+, Apple IIe and TRS-80 Model III.

A USER FRIENDLY AUTHORING PROGRAM FOR PATIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

by
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Patient's management problems (PMPs) test a medical student's clinical problem solving ability; he makes clinical decisions and receives feedback using latent images. Traditional PMP test papers can be used only once, limiting availability of PMPs, and allowing retracing (adding to early responses using information from the end of the problem). PMPs presented on a microcomputer are not subject to these limitations.

With this program a non-programmer can enter and edit a PMP in specialty board format. A floppy disk is prepared, which is the student's test paper. Branching (two or more pathways within the problem) is permitted. Retracing is not possible. Student's names and scores are recorded on the disk. Any number of students can use the disk.

PMPs can be made available in quantity to many students, for testing or teaching purposes.

INTERPRETIVE SOFTWARE FOR CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE

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Much of the software that has been developed for critical care medicine is concerned only with the display of calculated data, while no attempt is made to interpret the data that is generated. We have developed two programs in Applesoft Basic that are capable of interpreting the data that is generated and suggesting therapy for each interpretation. The first program concerns hemodynamic assessments. This program not only displays a series of calculated hemodynamic parameters, but also interprets each "profile" and suggests the appropriate therapy to correct the problem. The second program involves nutritional therapy. This program uses routine nutritional assessment measurements to calculate daily caloric and protein requirements, and selects the appropriate parenteral nutrition solution and infusion rate to be used in each case. Examples of the use of these programs will be demonstrated.