

INTRODUCTION

Home Study 2003 is part of the complete professional risk management package offered to chiropractors. We hope you will use it to improve your understanding of risk management principles and then apply those principles to the clinical challenges you face every day. **Home Study 2003** is designed to help you improve your understanding of the risk management factors that are essential to the success of your practice.

Risk Management Discount. The purchase of this home study manual entitles you to a 10 percent premium renewal discount in accordance with OUM/PACO/PICA policy. Data Trace will automatically inform your insurance carrier of your purchase. The risk management discount will be recorded. If you have questions about your policy, the renewal process or an invoice, please contact OUM at 1-800-423-1504, PACO at 1-800-433-4708, or PICA at 1-800-251-5727.

Continuing Education Units. In addition to valuable practice advice and a risk management discount, **Home Study 2003** offers chiropractors an avenue for earning Continuing Education Units (CEU) (where available) by successfully taking the test at the end of this publication, forwarding the test to Data Trace Publishing Company, and receiving a passing grade.

What's in the Workbook?

Section 1—Case Studies

The four traditional case studies in Section 1 of **Home Study 2003** are based on actual claims, although the names and circumstances have been changed. The allegations made against chiropractors in these case studies represent the most frequently occurring claims reported. At the end of each case study, you can review relevant teaching points through a series of questions and answers.

Section 2—Risk Management Review

Section 2 of the workbook includes four short vignettes covering some hot chiropractic topics. These vignettes provide valuable tips on how to protect your practice.

Section 3—How to Handle the Stress of a Lawsuit

In Section 3 we take an in-depth look at the anatomy of a lawsuit and provide advice on how to deal with the inevitable stress of a lawsuit.

Section 4—Building Your Practice Through Effective Communication

Section 4 of **Home Study 2003** looks at one of the fundamental methods for preventing malpractice lawsuits—communication. Use the suggestions in this

· section to pinpoint areas of your practice where you can improve your communi-
· cation skills.

· **Section 5—Continuing Education**

· After reading the case studies, risk management review, and in-depth features
· and listening to the audio program, you can earn Continuing Education Units
· (CEU) by completing the brief, multiple-choice examination. Questions are based
· on information provided in both the workbook and the audio program.

· The continuing education portion of **Home Study 2003** is coordinated by Data
· Trace Publishing Company, a trusted and respected publisher of chiropractic
· educational material since 1987. Data Trace is an approved sponsor of continuing
· chiropractic education with authorization to sponsor instructional media.

· Approval for CEU varies by state, as does the number of units approved. To check
· if your state has approved units for this program, visit Data Trace Publishing
· Company’s website at www.datatrace.com/medical, or call 1-888-240-8401.

· Participation in the continuing education portion of the workbook is optional. If
· you choose not to participate, you’ll still receive a 10 percent risk management
· discount on your malpractice insurance premium.

· **About the Audio Program**

· The accompanying audio program adds another dimension to our Home Study
· Program. Dr. Michael Freeman will provide a brief overview of whiplash epidemi-
· ology and biomechanics, touching on some of the current hot points regarding
· the topic, such as the use of biomechanics and epidemiologic study to imply that
· whiplash injuries do not or cannot occur in most crashes. The audio program
· discussion will touch on epidemiologic methodology, biomechanics, literature
· analysis, emerging uses of newer technology, and litigation issues.

· Dr. Freeman is a trauma epidemiologist as well as a practicing chiropractic
· physician. He is board certified in pain management and forensic medicine, and
· is a Fellow of the American College of Forensic Examiners. His primary research
· interest is in auto crash injuries and he is certified with Northwestern University as
· an auto crash reconstructionist. Dr. Freeman is Co-Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal
· of Whiplash-Related Disorders*.

· **Conclusion**

· **Home Study 2003** is designed to be a reference tool for you and your staff. The
· workbook and audio program are evidence of our continuing commitment to
· education and managing medical liability risk for chiropractors. Your feedback is
· important to us, and we are pleased with the overwhelmingly positive response to
· our home study workbooks. Please do not hesitate to contact us with suggestions
· or comments. Please direct comments to our customer care representatives: OUM
· 1-800-423-1504, PACO 1-800-433-4708, or PICA 1-800-251-5727.

· Thank you for your participation in our Risk Management Program.