



New Books

A Consumer's Guide to Evaluating Medical Technology

Published by the Consumer Commission on the Accreditation of Health Services, Inc. 381 Park Avenue S., New York, New York 10016. 38 pages. 1979. \$7 each.

Labor and consumer representatives on state and local planning agencies—called Statewide Health Coordinating Councils (SHCCs) and Health Systems Agencies (HSAs)—are too often overawed by the clinical and technical knowledge of physicians and hospital administrators on these boards.

The providers' arguments are often presented in terms of life and death and are couched in very technical language. Consumers thus hesitate to speak up against a new, costly piece of equipment—which may well be unneeded.

This consumer's guide can help consumers evaluate such arguments by presenting basic information on medical technology and how it can be evaluated. This guide is written specifically to meet the needs of lay members on state health boards and is recommended for labor and lay representatives on planning agency boards.

—Saul Miller