

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN CLINICAL DIETETICS
IN HOSPITALS IN THE UNITED STATES

Joan M. Karkeck, Ph.D.
University of Washington

This study, completed in January and February 1980, attempted to explore the depth of interest and commitment to the development of viable computer tools to enhance the role of dietitians in the clinical support of patients.

Using a review of literature, personal communications and a mailed questionnaire, current and projected uses of the computer in dietary departments in this country were surveyed.(9) This survey was summarized and discussed in detail.

Major points made were:

1. Acceptance of the computer in dietetics has been slow and continues to proceed at a cautious pace. (1,4,6)
2. Clinical nutrition applications within dietary departments in hospitals are at a rudimentary level. (3,5,8)
3. Innovative and useful applications have been pioneered in various centers, usually in University-related departments. (2,8,10,11)
4. Other health care professions are entering the field of clinical nutrition application, often not including dietary services. (3,7,13)
5. Dietitians, not unlike other professionals, are usually not familiar with computer access machinery and are hesitant about automation. They resist the inevitability of this progress. (12)

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