MRI Assessment Program: First Interim Report *by The National Health Technology Advisory Panel*
(Australian Institute of Health, Canberra, 1987), pp. vi + 32, ISBN 0 642 12181 8.

MRI Assessment Program: Second Interim Report *by The National Health Technology Advisory Panel*
(Australian Institute of Health, Canberra, 1988), pp. vi + 66, ISBN 0 642 13503 7.

Consensus Statement on Clinical Efficacy of MRI *by The National Health Technology Advisory Panel*
(Australian Institute of Health, Canberra, 1988), pp. iv + 11, ISBN 0 642 13736 6.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) or Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) is a relatively new diagnostic technology in medicine. The MRI Assessment Program, a joint project between the Commonwealth Government and the governments of the states in Australia, involves the operation of five MRI units in public hospitals. The purpose of the assessment projerct is to evaluate the cost and efficacy of MRI over a period of two years.

The first report presents some data on the MRI units at Royal Melbourne Hospital and Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney. The second report presents an analysis of data from these same two hospitals in addition to data from the Royal Adelaide Hospital and Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane. The third report *re* clinical efficacy is a non-quantitative statement of belief relating to the appropriateness of MRI to various organs and/or diseases.

DPD

Dry Chemistry Pathology Trial Part 1: Pre-Trial Instrument Evaluations *by The National Health Technology Advisory Panel*
(Australian Institute of Health, Canberra, 1987), pp. vii + 46, ISBN 0 641 12166 4.

Dry Chemistry Pathology Trial Part 2: Hospital Ward Side Room Study *by The National Health Technology Advisory Panel*
(Australian Institute of Health, Canberra, 1988), pp. viii + 41, ISBN 0 642 12167 2.

Recent advances in instrumentation and dry chemistry technology now offer the potential for simple blood analytes to be analysed reliably and accurately by relatively unskilled operators. The first report by NHTAP on 'office pathology' is concerned with assessment of the available instruments.

The second report describes the utilisation and analytical reliability of two dry chemistry pathology analysers in hospital ward side rooms at the Lyell McEwin Health Service in South Australia. Despite training and support by laboratory staff, the utilisation of the technology by Resident Medical Officers was very low. The relatively low utilisation in a 13-week period precluded a comprehensive assessment.

DPD