

## Automated Medication List for use with the Problem-Oriented Medical Record

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The Problem-Oriented Medical Record, if it is to be generally accepted by physicians as the tool with which they learn to accomplish high quality, comprehensive, and continuing care for patients, must not generate more work for the doctor or his/her employees. It must aid in the retrieval of information and assist in the overall evaluation of the care given to patients.

This paper describes a simple system developed in the Family Practice Residency Program at Iowa Lutheran Hospital for monitoring the use of medications in conjunction with the Problem-Oriented Medical Record. This involves the writing of prescriptions, generation of a medication list, and development of a daily medication log all in one writing. This is accomplished by utilizing the *pegboard system* — similar to that employed by many physicians' offices for accounting purposes (Figure 1).

The prescription log is first placed on a pegged board and shingled prescriptions placed on top, held in alignment by the pegs. This then becomes the prescription pad.

At the time of writing the prescription, the physician simply places the patient's own medication list under the prescription on the proper lines and writes the prescription. This generates three copies: (1) a prescription for the patient; (2) the medication list; and (3) the prescription log — no room for errors of omission or commission.

The prescription log — a large sheet

of paper which allows the recording of information about drugs prescribed — may or may not need to be kept in the record. A physician may review his prescribing habits, recall prescription information, and prevent, or at least detect, prescription losses.

The medication list is a heavier piece of paper stock of a specific color (ours is buff) which identifies it

amongst the other papers in the chart. It has, in addition to the prescribing information, a column for entering the problem code or description for which the prescription was written. There are also capabilities for recording telephone call refills.

The form of the prescription varies somewhat from that to which we are accustomed. However, on careful in-

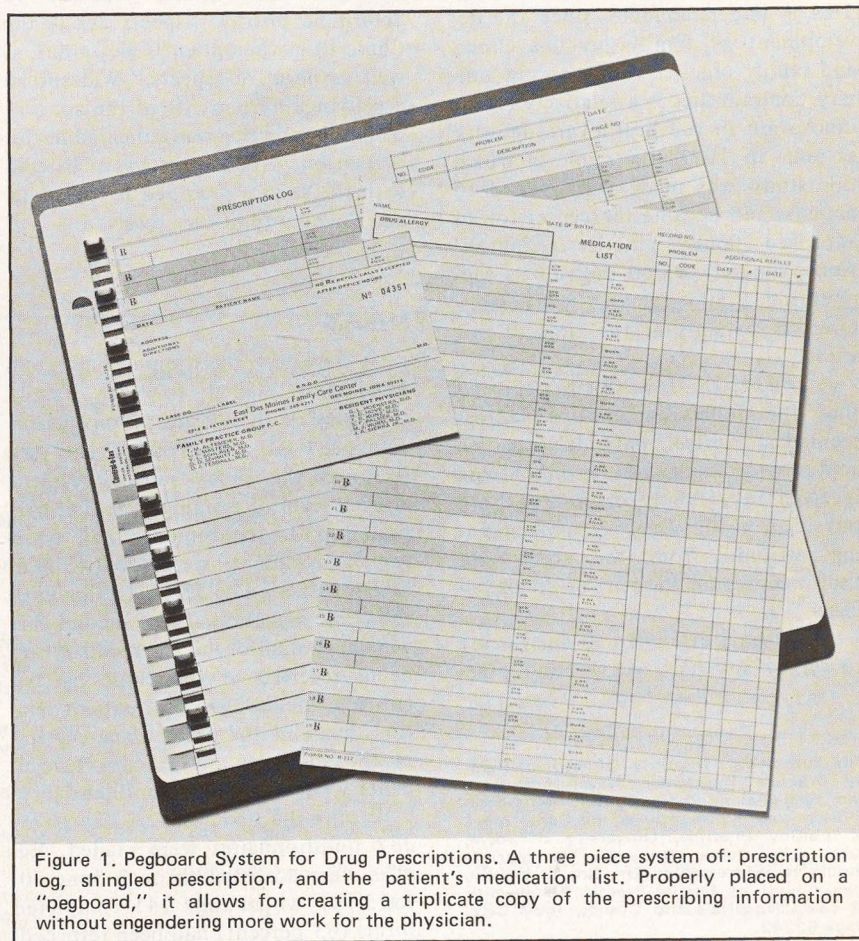


Figure 1. Pegboard System for Drug Prescriptions. A three piece system of: prescription log, shingled prescription, and the patient's medication list. Properly placed on a "pegboard," it allows for creating a triplicate copy of the prescribing information without engendering more work for the physician.

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