

INTRODUCTION

Home Study 2006: Standards and Principles is part of a complete professional liability insurance package offered by PICA Group. 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 2006** is designed to help you improve your understanding of the risk management factors that are essential to the success of your practice.

The **Home Study 2006** workbook provides some essential keys for recognizing and identifying and treating one of the most dangerous cancers—melanoma. The remaining case studies offer valuable risk management tips to help you maintain the health of your practice. In addition, we present general risk management issues that can help you improve the quality of your podiatric care.

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

Continuing Education Units. In addition to valuable practice advice and a PICA Group risk management discount, **Home Study 2006** offers podiatric physicians an avenue for earning Continuing Education Units (CEU) (where available) by simply taking the test at the end of this publication, forwarding the answer form to Data Trace Publishing Company, and receiving a passing grade.

What's in the Workbook?

Section 1: Malignant Melanoma

The cure rate for skin cancer—including melanoma—could be 100% if it was discovered and treated before it had a chance to spread. The two malignant melanoma case studies presented in this section illustrate ways you can contribute to the skin cancer cure rate by detecting the early signs of melanoma. (1) Educate your patients on the signs and symptoms of skin cancer and encourage patients to perform regular skin examinations, especially in hard-to-see areas like the soles of the feet. (2) Make skin examination part of your routine podiatric physical examination.

A careful reading of these case studies will help podiatric physicians recognize the importance of early detection, appropriate biopsy, and referral. At the end of each case study relevant teaching points and risk management tips are provided as a review.

Following the case studies is a melanoma review segment, which takes an in-depth look at melanoma to help you understand the risk factors for developing