LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This issue represents the seventh and final issue of the Journal of the Ambulatory Pediatric Association in its current form as a supplement to Pediatrics. Beginning in early 2001, the association’s journal will appear in a new form as Ambulatory Pediatrics, a bimonthly publication continuing the tradition we have established over the past year and a half with the American Academy of Pediatrics. Ambulatory Pediatrics will focus on the education of pediatricians and other child health professionals, child health services research, emergency medicine, research methodology, complementary and alternative medicine, child health policy, behavioral pediatrics, and adolescent medicine.

We expect that Ambulatory Pediatrics will have the same quality and diversity represented in the papers in this issue, which begins with two publications from the May 2000 combined meetings of the APA with its sister societies, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Pediatric Society, and the Society for Pediatric Research. Ellen Crain, APA president in 1999–2000, provides a fascinating call to action in her presidential address and Rick Hind, representing Greenpeace, publishes here the 2000 George Armstrong Lecture. The issue continues with papers concerning quality measurement and improvement in child health, increasingly important topics as several nations address problems of medical errors and better ways to ensure access to high-quality care. Kathleen Gest and associates (University of North Carolina) provide helpful guidance from their groundbreaking work in measuring preventive services in primary care settings. Jonathan Finkelstein and colleagues (Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and other institutions) examine how well physicians claim to follow guidelines for the management of asthma in pediatric practice. Howard Bauchner and Suzanne Steinbach (Boston Medical Center) provide helpful editorial views and recommendations based on the work of Finkelstein et al.

Linda Barnes and colleagues (Boston Medical Center) share important insights into how spirituality and religion affect pediatric care and provide a framework for important questions that merit attention in research and pediatric education. This topic receives little attention in pediatric literature, and we are particularly pleased to have it addressed in the journal. Mark Simms and colleagues (Medical College of Wisconsin) provide an extensive review of health care and health care needs of children in foster care settings and offer a guide to needed information that can stimulate our members to new research in this important area.

Matilde Irigoyen and colleagues (Columbia University) compared effects of different reminder systems on immunization acquisition and offer interesting strategies as well for describing the costs of different systems. Wendy Lane and colleagues (University of Maryland) indicate that instruction helps some in safety seat installation—but not enough. Thomas McNerny and colleagues (University of Rochester and the Pediatric Research in Office Settings network) describe primary care approaches to addressing uninsured children with psychosocial problems, suggesting that the lack of insurance did not affect identification or care in primary care settings. Kenneth Mandl and colleagues (Harvard Medical School) demonstrated increased use of primary care services, although not acute ones, after the initiation of a (voluntary) reduced postpartum length of stay program. Jennifer Parker and Kenneth Schoendorf (National Center for Health Statistics) provide an important manuscript regarding the measurement of ambulatory care-sensitive hospitalizations and potential caveats regarding the utility of this measurement. Oscar Purugganan and colleagues (Albert Einstein College of Medicine) note that many urban school-aged children seen in pediatric practices have substantial exposure to violence, reinforcing the need to address this problem in community health.

This issue of the journal provides the first letters to the editor that we have published. The review by Christakis et al. of circumcision in the fourth issue of the journal brought several interesting comments, two of which we publish here, with a response by the original authors.

Thank you for your attention to the Journal of the Ambulatory Pediatric Association. We will look forward to your continuing readership and to your good manuscripts with Ambulatory Pediatrics. Ambulatory Pediatrics will continue to be a benefit of membership in the Ambulatory Pediatric Association, and an application for membership is enclosed in this issue (more information available on the Ambulatory Pediatric Association website, www.ambpeds.org). Nonmembers may subscribe to Ambulatory Pediatrics at the following address:

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Editor-in-Chief
**Letter From the Editor**  
James M. Perrin  
*Pediatrics* 2000;106;869

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