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## New Computer Information System

# Medi-Data: Short Name, But Big Job

Burroughs/Medi-Data, a computerized hospital information and administrative system designed to speed up the process of patient care, is coming to Duke Medical Center.

Dr. William G. Anlyan, vice president for health affairs, and James A. McCullough, vice president and group executive of the Burroughs Corp. of Detroit, have announced the signing of a contract for installation of the system.

The Medi-Data system, as it is known, is in operation at Charlotte Memorial Hospital, an 876-bed community teaching institution.

Duke will become the second hospital in the country to adopt the complete system, which is a data processing network designed to perform clinical paperwork and information gathering, communicating and reporting of activities in the areas of patient care, administration and accounting, and research and statistics.

Various phases of the network will be implemented during the coming year.

The Duke team leaders for the project include Robert G. Winfree, assistant hospital director; Robert L. Newton, director of patient accounts for the medical center; and Mrs. Sandra Klima, Mrs. Ruby Borden and Mrs. Doris Elliott, registered nurses.

Their function will be to direct and coordinate the total program and to insure that all hospital departments and personnel become actively involved in planning for the computer system.

The system will electronically link each patient care unit, major service department and administrative support area by means of video display terminals and teletype message printers.



**TV ON A TYPEWRITER**—That's what a video display terminal resembles. The terminal, like the one being operated here, is part of Duke's new Medi-Data System.

The video display terminals, which resemble typewriters with an attached television screen, will be manned by ward secretaries on the nursing stations and by clerical personnel in the administrative and service department areas.

Patient care data will be entered into the network at one video display terminal and will be automatically routed to the appropriate video display terminal and message printer elsewhere.

For example, if a doctor wants his patient to have a series of blood studies performed, he writes out the order as he

always has. The ward secretary manning the video display terminal at the nursing station takes the order, assigns it a code number and types it into the video display device. A printed copy of the order then comes out of the message printer at the nursing station.

A registered nurse at the station compares this copy with the doctor's order to verify accuracy, and the doctor's order is then transmitted through the electronic system and a requisition is printed on a message printer in the

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