



## CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER®

### **What is the M+M Matrix?**

A special conference is held every week in most departments of surgery. This conference - the surgical morbidity and mortality conference - is specifically designed to learn from the errors and complications that have occurred during the previous week. In full view and with the active participation of those who attend, errors and complications - and how to avoid them in the future - are discussed and debated under the guide of a moderator.

As valuable as these discussions are, the morbidity and mortality conference has a great failing. The great principles and methods of avoiding errors and complications are not memorialized. They evaporate after the meeting's end. There has never been a reliable method of trapping the distilled wisdom generated by these debates and discussions.

The M+M Matrix corrects that defect. The Matrix Program is an educational method of memorializing, codifying, distributing and educating a department in those specific error and complication reducing methods voiced at this conference.

Through a rigorous process of preparation and presentation, the Matrix Program outlines the specifics of error and complication prevention. It distributes these essential points to the resident staff and to the attending staff. Through a process of quarterly written examinations, the Matrix program assures that every resident and staff member will benefit from this weekly conference.

The Matrix Program is part of the answer to the national focus on errors and complications in medicine. The concept directly answers the challenge laid down by the Institute of Medicine in their report "To Err is Human - Building a Safer Health System." Point by point, the Matrix can assure the public that the current group of residents is being schooled in error and complication-preventing methods. The program benefits the attending staff through ongoing education and review.

The Department of Surgery implemented the Matrix program in July of 2001. It has become the central educational conference of the week. Its role has become even more important since the advent of federally mandated work hour restrictions for residents.

At this critical time in the evolution of the field of patient safety, it is essential that every conference and activity be evaluated for its educational benefit. It is clear that incorporating the Matrix Program into departmental educational and risk management activities will enhance patient safety.