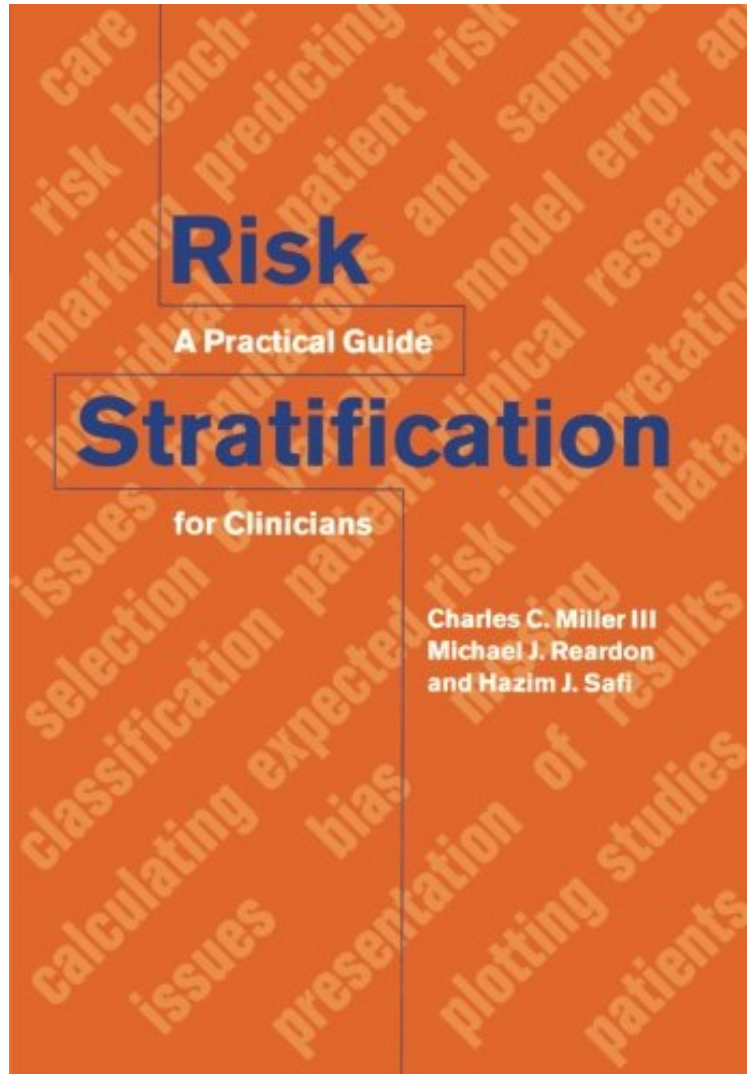


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Risk Stratification: A Practical Guide for Clinicians

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Risk stratification is a statistical process by which quality of care can be assessed independently of patient case mix. The evaluation of risk-adjusted patient outcome has become an important part of managed care contracting in some markets, and risk-adjusted outcome rates for hospitals are being reported more frequently in the popular press and on

the Internet. This book, written by a statistician and two surgeons for a clinical audience, is a practical guide to the process of risk stratification and does not require or assume an extensive mathematical background. It describes the rationale and assumptions for risk stratification, and provides information on evaluating the quality of various published risk-stratification studies. Numerous practical examples using real clinical data help to illustrate risk stratification in health care. The volume also serves as a step-by-step guide to the production and dissemination of risk-adjusted outcome results for local programs.

"The three authors deserve all credit for this comprehensive book on risk stratification which can be recommended to clinicians as well as statisticians interested in this field. The book is easily readable also for non-statisticians and provides a sound overview on methods and principles." *Statistics in Medicine* "...a very good overview on this topic for persons with some experience in clinical research, and a useful guide for those who wish to implement risk stratification techniques in their quality improvement programs." Douglas W. Mapel, Chest