

What is claimed is:

1. For use with a hand-held medical-history-taking device, the method of reporting which particular anatomical systems, among a plurality of candidate anatomical systems, are associated with at least one health symptom, responsive to information supplied by the patient, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing question storage means in said history-taking device storing a plurality of questions to be asked of a medical patient;
- (b) providing answer storage means in said history-taking device for storing a plurality of answers obtained from said patient and respectively associated with said questions;
- (c) providing, first list storage means in said history-taking device storing a first list identifying, for each of said plurality of candidate anatomical systems, at least one of said symptoms as being associated with said anatomical system;
- (d) providing second list storage means in said history-taking device storing a second list identifying, for each of said health symptoms, at least one of said questions as being associated with said health symptom;
- (e) causing said history-taking device to consult said question storage means to present a selected sequence of said questions to said patient, causing said history-taking device to solicit a respective answer to each of said questions of said sequence, and causing said history-taking device to store each of said answers in said answer storage means;
- (f) causing said history-taking device to select, in turn, each of said plurality of candidate anatomical systems, and causing said history-taking device to consult said first list storage means to determine which health symptoms are associated with said selected anatomical system;
- (g) causing said history-taking device to select, in turn, each of said health symptoms determined in the previous step, and causing said history-taking device to consult said second list storage means to determine which questions are associated with said selected health symptom;
- (h) causing said history-taking device to select, in turn, each of said questions determined in the previous step, and causing said history-taking device to consult said answer storage means to determine whether the stored answer associated with that question is non-negative; and
- (i) if said stored answer is non-negative, causing said history-taking device to produce printer signals to cause an external printer to present in a printed report a report element associating said selected anatomical system with said selected health symptom.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step (h) of causing said history-taking device to consult said answer storage means further comprises the steps of:

- causing said history-taking device to retrieve said stored answer; and
- causing said history-taking device to determine that said stored answer is non-negative if said stored answer corresponds to "Yes" or "Not Sure".

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

- (j) once a non-negative response to any question associated with said selected health symptom has caused a report element associating said selected anatomical

system with said selected health symptom to be presented, causing said history-taking device to inhibit further selection of questions associated with the selected health symptom and instead to select in turn a next available health symptom which is associated with said selected anatomical system.

4. For use with a hand-held medical-history-taking device, the method of reporting which particular members of a first subject-matter category among a plurality of candidate members of said first subject matter category, are associated with at least one member of a second subject matter category, at least one of said subject matter categories diagnostically indicated by information supplied by the patient, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing question storage means in said history-taking device storing a plurality of questions to be asked of a medical patient;
- (b) providing answer storage means in said history-taking device for storing a plurality of answers obtained from said patient and respectively associated with said questions;
- (c) providing first list storage means in said history-taking device storing a first list identifying, for each of said plurality of candidate members of said first subject-matter category, at least one member of said second subject-matter category as being associated with said member of said first subject-matter category;
- (d) providing second list storage means in said history-taking device storing a second list identifying, for each of said members of said second subject matter category, at least one of said questions as being associated with said member of said second subject-matter category;
- (e) causing said history-taking device to consult said question storage means to present a selected sequence of said questions to said patient, causing said history-taking device to solicit a respective answer to each of said questions of said sequence, and causing said history-taking device to store each of said answers in said answer storage means;
- (f) causing said history-taking device to select, in turn, each of said plurality of members of said first subject-matter category, and causing said history-taking device to consult said first list storage means to determine which members of said second subject-matter category are associated with said selected member of said first subject-matter category;
- (g) causing said history-taking device to select, in turn, each of said members of second subject-matter category determined in the previous step, and causing said history-taking device to consult said second list storage means to determine which questions are associated with said selected member of said second subject-matter category;
- (h) causing said history-taking device to select, in turn, each of said questions determined in the previous step, and causing said history-taking device to consult said answer storage means to determine whether the stored answer associated with that question is non-negative; and
- (i) if said stored answer is non-negative, causing said history-taking device to produce printer signals to cause an external printer to present in a printed report a report element associating said selected member of said first subject-matter category with said selected member of said second subject-matter category.

5. A hand-held medical-history-taking device adapted for reporting which particular anatomical systems, among a