Starting with release 3.6.6 (commit #f1689130d), DCMTK can read DICOM files from stdin and write DICOM files to stdout. This feature is automatically available in all tools that use DcmFileFormat::loadFile() and DcmFileFormat::saveFile(), respectively. As in most Posix tools, the special filename ".-" is used to denote stream input/output:

dcmconv +te input.dcm - | dcmodify -m PatientName=TEST - | dcmdump - | less

Currently this feature is not documented in the manual pages of the affected tools. A short section should be added that describes this.