

Health Bulletin



New Treatments May Further Reduce Fatality Rates

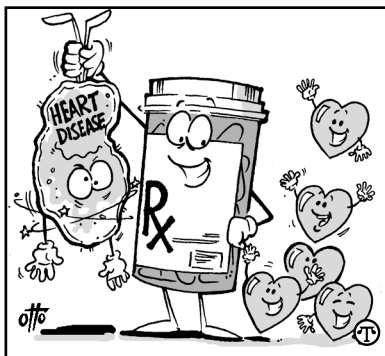
(NAPSA)—There's encouraging news about two of the leading causes of early death in America today—heart disease and stroke. Death rates from heart disease and stroke have fallen in recent decades due, in part, to medicines developed by America's pharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies.

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute reports that if death rates were the same as those 30 years ago, 815,000 more Americans would die of heart disease annually and 250,000 would die of stroke. This reduction in death rates is "one of the great triumphs of medicine in the past 50 years," according to cardiologist Dr. Eugene Braunwald of Brigham and Women's Hospital at Harvard University.

To further reduce the human toll, more must be done. For instance, pharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies are now working on more than 300 new medicines that can help fight heart disease and stroke. These medicines are currently being tested or awaiting final approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Treatments now in development include 34 new medicines specifically to fight heart failure, 36 for high blood pressure, 15 for heart attacks and 22 for stroke. Many rely on cutting-edge technologies and new scientific approaches. For example:

- Human stem cells that may restore cardiac function by forming new heart muscle;
- A new anti-coagulant that regulates clot formation to prevent deep vein thrombosis; and



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• A gene therapy that uses a patient's own cells to treat heart failure.

New medicines may greatly enhance the arsenal of approved medicines that doctors already use to reduce deaths from heart disease and stroke but they can't help anyone as long as they stay on the shelf. And many Americans who have lost their jobs and health care benefits may need help getting access to these medicines.

To help, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) and America's pharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies are leading sponsors of the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA). PPA helps connect eligible patients to 475 patient assistance programs that provide free or nearly free medicines.

For more information, visit www.PhRMA.org and www.PPARx.org or call (888) 4PPA-NOW.