

# Health Bulletin

## New Medicines To Fight HIV/AIDS

(NAPSA)—Seventy-seven new medicines and vaccines are currently in development to treat HIV/AIDS and related conditions, according to a new report from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) entitled “Medicines in Development for HIV/AIDS.” That’s important, as the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS reports that AIDS has killed more than 25 million people and infected an estimated 40 million worldwide.

As many as 1.2 million U.S. residents are estimated to have HIV infection. “We are very encouraged by the new, critically important medicines in development to treat HIV/AIDS,” said Billy Tauzin, president and CEO of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. “PhRMA member companies are leading the search for vaccines and treatments for this terrible disease.”

The PhRMA report reveals that the 77 new drugs in development are either in human clinical trials or awaiting approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). New HIV/AIDS medicines being researched include:

- The first in a new class of drugs known as integrase inhibitors, which has been shown to decrease viral load in patients with significant HIV drug resistance.
- A vaccine that combines DNA snippets from the AIDS virus with a protein that boosts immune response. The vaccine may prevent infection, limit the damage the virus causes or both.
- A medicine that binds itself to a receptor protein found on the surface of human cells and blocks the HIV virus from entering the cell.

In recent years, innovative medicines have significantly reduced mother-to-child transmission of HIV in the United States, according



**New medications may mean a longer, better life for many people with HIV/AIDS in the U.S. and around the world.**

to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And the National Institutes of Health (NIH) reports that the U.S. death rate from AIDS has dropped about 70 percent. New treatments have also reduced hospitalization and the total cost of care, according to a New England Journal of Medicine study.

America’s pharmaceutical research companies have contributed more than \$4.1 billion to improve health care in the developing world, according to the Partnership for Quality Medical Donations. Projects include building HIV/AIDS clinics, AIDS education and prevention programs, programs to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and donations of medicines for AIDS and related diseases. Companies are also providing AIDS drugs at significantly reduced prices in 18 countries, according to a study by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations.

“With HIV/AIDS medicines, a disease that was once a virtual death sentence can now be controlled and treated as if it were a chronic disease,” added Tauzin. “And the new medicines our scientists are working on right now bring hope for even more promising results in the future.”