

Health NEWS & NOTES

Early Diagnosis Key To Treatment Of Cholesterol

(NAPSA)—When it comes to an early diagnosis of a disease, what you find out may help you—and others—in more ways than you suspect.

For instance, many believe a recent increase in the number of individuals diagnosed with high cholesterol has contributed to an overall increase in use of, and spending on, medications to treat the disease.

High blood cholesterol is considered by many to be of significant medical concern because individuals with this condition are at increased risk for heart disease, the leading cause of death among both men and women in the United States.

More than one million Americans have heart attacks each year, with about one-half million dying of heart disease.

According to experts at Pharmaceutical Research And Manufacturers of America, PhRMA, more aggressive efforts to diagnose the disease have also lead to improved medicines, new standards of care that dramatically emphasize the use of these improved medicines in broader populations and greater attention on the part of the public and health professionals to preventing and managing cholesterol and cardiovascular disease.

In addition, the trend in medicine toward prevention, particularly by using newer medicines, is an important part of health maintenance for cholesterol patients.



Many believe that diagnosing more people with high cholesterol has contributed to an increase in spending on medications to treat the condition.

This trend has not only proven cost-effective but has also improved the quality of patients' lives.

As more aggressive diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment reach more patients with high cholesterol, and as new treatments are developed, it is predictable that we'll spend more on medicines to treat this condition.

Allocating resources to medicines that treat high cholesterol may also contribute to a more productive society.

Research indicates that patients who achieve their treatment goals—in this case, lowered blood cholesterol levels—have slower disease progression, maintain better health, and use fewer health care services such as hospitalization.

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.phrma.org.