



HEALTH AWARENESS

New Diabetes Treatments In Development

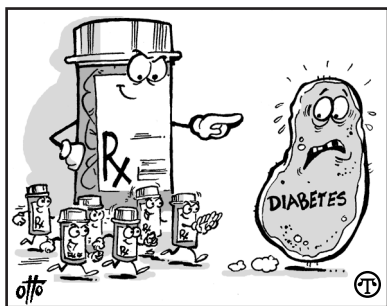
(NAPSA)—An estimated 20.8 million Americans have diabetes, although nearly one-third of them are unaware that they have the disease. To help, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) is launching a campaign to improve diabetes awareness and provide patients with valuable information about the disease, how it can be treated and the 56 new drugs now being developed to help treat the disorder by America's pharmaceutical research companies.

Diabetes Overview

Diabetes is a serious metabolic disorder in which the body cannot break down glucose and use it for growth and energy. There are three types of diabetes:

- Type 1 diabetes develops when the body can no longer make the hormone insulin;
- Type 2 diabetes develops when the cells in the body no longer use insulin properly. Ninety to 95 percent of people with diabetes have type 2 diabetes, which typically develops in older, overweight adults. Although it affects all races, type 2 diabetes is more common among African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders and senior populations; and
- Gestational diabetes develops in some women while they are pregnant.

Diabetes costs the United States an estimated \$132 billion a year, according to the American Diabetes Association. Direct medical costs for diabetes care were responsible for \$92 billion. Indirect costs, including disability payments, time lost from work and premature death, cost the United States \$40 billion.



New drugs in development may help people with diabetes better manage their disease.

Progress In Treatment

During the past decade, research breakthroughs have led to the approval of three new insulin products to treat type 1 and advanced type 2 diabetes. And beginning in 1995, a string of additional treatment advances has allowed people with type 2 diabetes to more effectively manage their condition.

A new PhRMA report shows the drugs that are currently in development include:

- A medicine that decreases elevated glucose;
- Inhaled forms of insulin that do not require injections, including a form that is inhaled through the nose; and
- An oral medicine that affects the quantity of glucose reabsorbed by the kidneys.

Because these medications have different mechanisms of action and different side effects, combination therapy can prevent patients from becoming hypoglycemic (having blood sugar levels that are too low) or experiencing serious complications such as kidney problems.

To learn more about treatments currently in development, visit the PhRMA Web site at www.phrma.org.