



In the past ten years, more than 300 new medicines have been approved by the FDA. Many of these drugs are helping to improve the health of patients with chronic conditions like COPD, diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

In spite of these advances, many people with these conditions end up in the hospital.

Why?

Because they didn't take their medicine as prescribed. Proper use of medicine can significantly improve health.

Here are two examples of how some new medicines are helping to improve health:



- Increased use of blood-thinning drugs could prevent 40,000 strokes a year and save \$600 million annually.¹
- Since researchers developed a new wave of medicines to treat HIV/AIDS in the mid-1990s, the U.S. death rate from AIDS has dropped about 70%.²

References:

- 1 Penn AS., M.D. (Acting Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke). Statement to the House, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health. House date, June 6, 2002. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Web site. http://www.ninds.nih.gov/news_and_events/congressional_testimony/2002_stroke_testimony.htm. Accessed December 1, 2010.
- 2 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Health, United States, 2009 *Chartbook with Special Feature on Medical Technology*. Hyattsville, MD: HHS, 2010.