



HEART HINTS

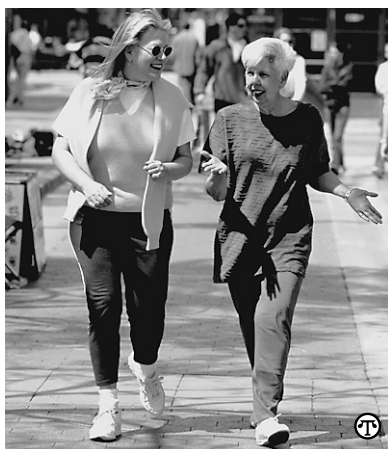
Help For People With Heart Disease

(NAPSA)—If you or someone you know has had a heart attack, or if a doctor says you have heart failure, atrial fibrillation, angina (chest pain) or heart disease, take heart. You aren't alone. An estimated 12,600,000 people alive today have a history of heart attack, angina pectoris, or both. Two million Americans are estimated to have atrial fibrillation.

Unfortunately, more than 45 percent of the people who experience a coronary attack in a given year will die from it. Until now, learning about the best treatments could be a complicated and frustrating prospect. The American Heart Association recently launched Heart Profilers, a free, Web-based interactive tool that provides personalized information, based on the latest clinical research, to enable heart disease patients, their families and caregivers to manage their disease and make better treatment decisions with their doctor. The program helps people and their physicians become active partners in developing treatment options, understanding potential side effects and maximizing their appointments. It can be found by logging onto americanheart.org and clicking on the Heart Profilers icon (or americanheart.org/heartprofilers).

"Being told by a doctor that you have a heart attack, angina or heart failure can be devastating. These are deadly conditions and people desire information, options and hope. With the Heart Profilers, the American Heart Association offers patients and their doctors easy-to-understand treatment options so they can make the right choice for each individual," says Clyde Yancy, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine/Cardiology, University of Texas Southwestern, and American Heart Association volunteer. "The Heart Profilers are the first patient-specific, heart disease decision support tool on the Web. They use the latest clinical research to help heart patients and caregivers work together to make informed decisions relevant to their individual situations."

Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of Americans. Approximately 61.8 million Americans have one or more type of cardiovascular disease (7.5 million heart attack, 6.4 million angina,



Individualized information about heart conditions, available on the Internet, may help millions of Americans live longer, better lives.

two million atrial fibrillation), including more than 24.7 million age 65 and older and 32.1 million (52 percent of the total) women. Nearly 4.8 million Americans are living with congestive heart failure and about 550,000 new cases occur each year. From 1979-1999 (most recent figures available), deaths due to heart failure increased 145 percent.

Unlike basic informational Web sites, the Heart Profilers match each patient's medical information or profile with published clinical research studies. Treatment information is specific to each individual patient's condition. The program takes about 20 minutes to sign in, to create a personalized profile and to generate an initial report. Patients receive information on how their treatment compares with others, and can download questions that they should ask their physician. All information is written to be easily understood and includes an integrated index of medical terms to make sure patients truly understand their condition and all treatment options. In addition, the tool can connect interested people to nearby clinical trials so that they can benefit from new treatment programs.

Since Heart Profilers are backed by the American Heart Association, one of the world's leading supporters of cardiovascular medical research and education, patients can be assured that they are receiving the most credible, up-to-date information available.