

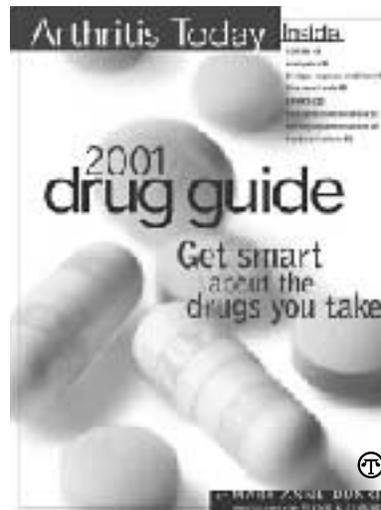


spotlight on health

Taking The Confusion Out Of Treatment Options For Arthritis

(NAPS)—As arthritis drugs continue to be approved at an unprecedented rate, people are finding it increasingly difficult to understand all the options that are available. *Arthritis Today*, the consumer health magazine of the Arthritis Foundation, has created a free, one-stop resource that takes the confusion out of the choices available for the 43 million people with arthritis in its “2001 Drug Guide.” The newly released guide is now available for anyone who wants to better understand his or her disease and the medications they take to treat it.

There are hundreds of drug options available to manage arthritis and related conditions. Prescription, over-the-counter, pills, injections, topicals, drugs for kids with arthritis, alternative therapies, new drugs, existing drugs, drugs that are used to treat one form of arthritis and not another...all make for an uneasy task for people to keep up. The Drug Guide breaks down more than 250 medications and treatments. Brand and generic names, dosage, special instructions, side effects, warnings and cautions are all explained for each drug. The Guide also contains a journal for people to record information related to changes and experiences they may have when taking med-



A new drug guide is helping people get smarter about arthritis and the drugs they take to treat it.

ications and can be taken to appointments as a tool to better communicate with their doctor concerns about their condition. Rheumatologists agree that education and action are key in managing arthritis—taking control of the disease so that it doesn't control the person.

Anyone can help take control of his or her arthritis by calling 800-283-7800 or visiting www.arthritis.org for a free copy of the 2001 Drug Guide.