

on hypertension, we have seen from a 1974 study the National Heart and Lung Institute called "Hypertension Detection and Followup Study" that initial visits to doctors increased 38% for hypertension and hypertensive heart disease. The number of people with hypertension not aware of their disease decreased from 50% to 29%, and in a study of 760 clinicians published in the May, 1975 issue of Medical Opinion, it revealed that the number of physicians who take blood pressure readings increased in five years from 50% to 90%, that 73% of physicians routinely use laboratory tests for hypertensive patients, and that the number of patients now talking about hypertension with their physician increased from 9% five years ago to 36% today.

We are pleased to say at this time we are working with the National Board of Medical Examiners to produce a national self-assessment on hypertension for physicians under an educational grant from Smith Kline & French Laboratories. This is an outgrowth of our "Dialogues in Hypertension" program.

Every day we receive letters on one or more of our programs from physicians in practice who thank us for our contribution to their patient care needs. We are young and this industry is young. We have made mistakes. We have not always been able to include all the Food and Drug Administration criteria described in this statement in every one of our programs. We are concerned and proud to be part of an effort where we have seen visible signs that in some small way we have contributed to an improvement in the quality of health care in this country and abroad.

Thank you for allowing me to share this with you.