

*The Truth*  *About Health*

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## MODIFIED DIAGNOSIS GUIDELINES CREATE MILLIONS MORE “SICK PEOPLE”

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The major pharmaceutical companies have come up with a new plan for creating new customers and huge profits. Just get medical “authorities” to change the definition of various illnesses that could be treated with their drugs and you have millions more potential customers.

Hypertension, diabetes, obesity, osteopenia (reduction of bone volume, a possible precursor to osteoporosis), and excessive cholesterol levels are all conditions that are now being diagnosed on millions more people after the threshold numbers for diagnosis were changed.

How does it work? For diabetes, shift the number by which the condition is diagnosed from 140 (measurement of glucose in blood in a fasting blood test) to 126. You instantly have 1.7 million more diabetics who are candidates for your products. For hypertension, change the blood pressure definition from 160/100 to 140/90. You add 13.5 million people to your existing customer pool of 38.7 million. Both these diagnostic numbers were shifted in 1997.

In 1998, two other definitions were changed, meaning even more massive additions of pharmaceutical customers. The definition of overweight was revised from a Body Mass Index (a calculation of weight to height) of “over 27” to “over 25.” Immediately, 30.5 million more people became overweight, using this index. High cholesterol was redefined from 240 or more to 200 or more. This shift increased the candidates for cholesterol-lowering drugs 86%, from 49.5 million to 92.1 million people.

Not surprisingly, an investigation of the connections of those people writing the recommendations for guideline changes finds that they are often paid consultants, paid speakers or grant recipients for the companies manufacturing the drugs related to their recommendations.

The real result of this shift may be that healthy people will be prescribed medications for long-term use, perhaps even for the rest of their lives. This model of prescribing results in the highest-possible profits for pharmaceutical companies.

SOURCE: [www.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/news/health/suddenlysick/sickdefinitions26.html](http://www.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/news/health/suddenlysick/sickdefinitions26.html);

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