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The UK's success in reducing deaths from heart disease has led to a steep increase in the cost to the health service, according to new research. Scientists from Oxford University said the number

of people dying each year from heart disease and strokes had fallen by 70% since 1979, but hospital admissions and drug prescriptions increased. Here's our health correspondent Robert Pigott. The dramatic reduction in the number of people dying from cardiovascular diseases in recent decades is evidence of a UK population living longer but in poorer health. People with heart disease and strokes are growing older, but they will I heavily on the whole service for their survival. The prevalence of cardiovascular disease has not changed much buzzed up it ranges from just over 3% of the population in England to around 4% is where in the UK will stop at 70% fewer people die each year from heart disease and stroke compared to 1979. Saving those lives has been costly. In 115 year period, drug prescriptions for circular treat diseases in England increased by almost 80% -- in one 15

year period. Heart and strip patients need hospital treatment that is expensive, and more surgery. Add missions in England increased in 11%. Despite the success in treating cardiovascular disease, what causes it is still not fully understood. What we have failed to do is to find a way of stopping the disease process which causes heart attacks and stroke in the first place, and that needs much more research. We still don't understand the fundamental biology of heart attacks and strokes sufficiently well to come up with strategies which are bound to read us of the disease. Men might have most to gain from better research. They are increasingly outnumbering women in needing treatment for heart disease and strokes. A huge well rig that ran aground in the Outer Hebrides is being