

# Re: The pharmaceutical industry and free markets

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**From:** Johnny Marcos (*johnny5\_at\_yahoo.com*)

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Date: Mon, 05 Jul 2004 08:12:21 GMT

ruetheday@outgun.com (Rue The Day) wrote in  
news:a44a8c58.0407041437.2f7dd483@posting.google.com:

About 700 years ago the ming dynasty in china discovered red yeast rice helped to increase circulation and reduce ailments in its citizens – the chinese have an average cholesterol level from between 80 – 100. 700 years later, much scientific study, many billions of dollars in research and marketing the american public with an average 250 cholesterol level gets cholesterol drugs – what the fuck? I feel like I got cheated.

- > *I find it quite interesting that much of the news coverage I've seen*
- > *recently regarding the cost of health care (in particular*
- > *pharmaceutical costs), the re-importation of Canadian drugs into the*
- > *US, etc. have centered around finding market solutions to the problem*
- > *vs government solutions. In reality, there is almost nothing*
- > *whatsoever about the pharmaceutical industry that could be described*
- > *as a "free market".*
- >
- > *1. Costs are artificially inflated by the regulatory requirements of*
- > *the drug approval process.*
- >
- > *2. Pharmaceutical firms reap monopoly rents due to patent law.*
- >
- > *3. The actual consumer of the pharmaceuticals pays little of the price*
- > *out of pocket. The price is generally paid by insurance companies*
- > *which are themselves directly or indirectly subsidized by the*
- > *government.*
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