

FDA balances costs, patient safety in the biologics and personalized medicine revolution

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Sometimes what you see is not all you get. Whether or not you support healthcare reform, the implementation of any vast, complex legislation can result in unintended consequences. That's certainly the case when it comes to the emerging era of biologics—a new class of treatments made from living organisms. Most therapeutic drugs are made up of simple molecules mixed together. In contrast, “biologic drugs” are made from far more complex human or animal proteins. Rather than treating the disease’s consequences, biologics work by blocking diseases early in their development, in the immune system, and can be individually tailored to a the person taking the medicine—a revolutionary turn along the windy road toward our personalized medicine future.

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