

Turning to DNA to tailor prescriptions

Scientists searching for a way to avoid prescribing medications to patients that may cause dangerous physical or behavioral responses are turning increasingly to those patients' DNA.

The concept of personalized medicine, tailoring treatment to patients based on their genetic makeup or other individual characteristics, is more often associated with determining which patients may respond best to which drug. Yet predicting bad reactions may be as or more important.

"Drug prescribing is still relatively rudimentary," says Kathryn Phillips, professor and director of the University of California, San Francisco Center for Translational and Policy Research on Personalized Medicine. "We look at somebody's weight and maybe their gender. Certainly I think in the future we'll see that people get genotyped and they'll have this whole list of drugs that they should avoid."

Read the full, original story: [Searching Genes to Avoid Medical Side Effects](#)