

DTC genetic testing companies need nudge to help patients understand results

The 23andMe controversy illustrates a stalemate over the role of direct-to-consumer genetic testing in American health care.

On one side are those like geneticist Robert Green and law professor Nita Farahany, who recently argued in the science journal *Nature* that people should be trusted to make responsible use of their own genetic information.

Then there are those like bioethicist George Annas and physician Sherman Elias who argued in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that the FDA ban did no more than “requir[e] that companies that want to sell their health-related medical devices to the public demonstrate...that the tests do what the company claims they do.”

Each position — nonintervention and prohibition — has much to commend it. Yet neither captures the diverse outcomes of genetic testing.

Read the full, original story: [Genetic Testing Needs a Nudge](#)