

Docs get guidance for patient genomes in practice

In a review article published this week (June 19) in the New England Journal of Medicine, researchers have released guidelines on clinical genome and exome sequencing in order provide doctors with a basic outline of the rapidly advancing technologies now available. Coauthors Leslie Biesecker from the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) and Robert Green of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School noted that, in previous years, thousands of physicians have already ordered such sequencing tests. The pair predicted that, this year, another 10,000 tests would be ordered.

"It's come much faster and developed more quickly and become more useful clinically than I think any reasonable person would have suggested just 10 years ago," Biesecker said in a statement. "At that time, I don't think anybody would have taken you seriously if you had said that in 2014, tens of thousands of patients would be getting clinical genome and exome sequencing."

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