

FROM TEST TUBE TO PATIENT:
IMPROVING HEALTH
THROUGH HUMAN DRUGS



U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research ♦ Special Report

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 1999 edition of one of the FDA's most popular and enduring publications: *From Test Tube to Patient*. This book tells the story of new drug development in the United States and highlights the consumer protection role of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. The drug regulatory system in the United States has been evolving over most of the 20th century. This latest update captures the most recent changes and reforms, including those stemming from the 1997 FDA Modernization Act.

This publication recognizes the importance of drug development in the total picture of healthcare for the American people. Articles discuss various aspects of this process, from test tube to medicine cabinet; drug testing from laboratory, clinician and patient perspectives; how scientists and physicians in the center balance benefits and risks; and the roles of consumers, healthcare providers, advisory committees and FDA inspectors in making sure drugs are safe and effective. Since the center's and FDA's responsibilities do not end once a drug is approved, this publication examines the increasingly important area of post-market surveillance.

Some of the articles in this edition have been updated from previous editions, some are reprinted from recent issues of *FDA Consumer*, and a few are entirely new.

From Test Tube to Patient: *Improving Health Through Human Drugs*

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CDER: The Consumer Watchdog for Safe and Effective Drugs	4
Why Should FDA Regulate Drugs?	8
The Beginnings: Laboratory and Animal Studies	14
Testing Drugs in People.....	18
Protecting Human Study Subjects	24
FDA Finds New Ways to Speed Treatments to Patients	29
Benefit vs. Risk: How CDER Approves New Drugs.....	33
Getting Outside Advice for Close Calls	41
An Inside Look at FDA On-Site	47
MedWatch: FDA’s “Heads Up” on Medical Product Safety	54
FDA Ensures Equivalence of Generic Drugs.....	61
When a Drug Is in Short Supply	64
Now Available Without a Prescription	68
Direct to You: TV Drug Ads That Make Sense.....	74
Pediatric Drug Studies: Protecting Pint-Sized Patients	78
Medications and Older Adults	82
A Dose of Clear Directions for Rx Drug Users.....	88
New Drug Label Spells It Out Simply	92
How to Comment on Proposals and Submit Petitions	96
How to Obtain Information.....	98