The Legal Regulation of Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing In South Africa

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Abstract : Despite its prevalence, direct-to-consumer genetic testing (DTC-GT) remains under-investigated in South Africa (SA), and the issue of regulation is yet to be examined. Therefore, this research maps the current legal landscape relating to DTC-GT in SA through a legal analysis of the extant law relevant to the industry and the issues associated therewith – with the intention of determining if and how DTC-GT is legally governed. This research analyses: whether consumers are legally permitted to collect their saliva; whether DTC-GT are medical devices; licensing, registering, and advertising; importing and exporting; and genetic research conducted by companies.

Keywords : direct-to-consumer genetic testing, genetic testing, health, law, regulation, South Africa

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