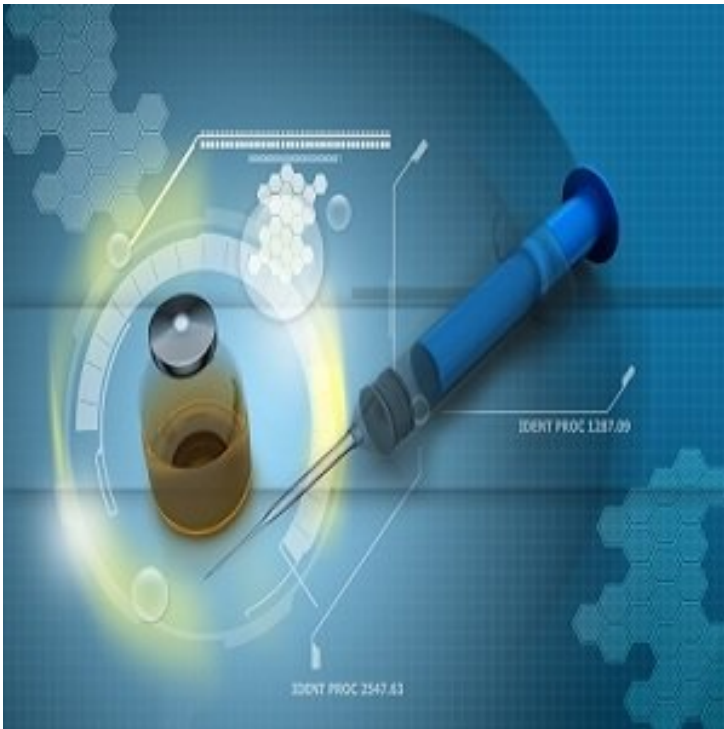


FDA to fast-track Ebola drug trials

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Singapore: As the death toll reaches 1900, FDA has urged many Big Pharma with prospective Ebola interventions, to accelerate the clinical trials and make the drug available in the market as soon as possible.

Recently, Johnson & Johnson (J&J) announced that FDA would allot a fast-track designation for its investigational combination vaccine developed for Ebola.

J&J has developed a vaccine regimen that combines elements of two different technologies from Danish firm Bavarian Nordic and J&J's vaccine arm Crucell.

J&J said that along with the vaccines, the company is also investigating its products to develop a drug that may help Ebola patients survive the infection.

Another company, NewLink Genetics said that FDA issued a fast-track status to begin phase I clinical trials for their vaccine candidate developed for Ebola. The company announced that the trial would be conducted on 40 healthy volunteers to test the safety and potency of the vaccine.

The deadly outbreak shows no healing signs, with WHO experts' estimating that \$600 million would be needed to contain the outbreak.