

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Genetic testing: Policy issues for the new Millennium: Executive summary7

Part I. Genetic Testing: New Developments and Socio-Economic Impacts

Introduction	19
What is genetic testing?	19
Genetic testing and pharmaco-genetics: revolutionising drug development ..	21
Susceptibility gene identification and SNPs	21
“The right medicine for the right patient”	23
Genetic programmes and services: the likely consequences of a rapid expansion of genetic testing	23
Lessons learned from screening programmes	24
Prenatal testing for Down’s syndrome	24
Screening for haemoglobin disorders (thalassaemias and sickle cell disorders)	25
Genetic counselling: forecasting the needs	27

Part II. Safeguarding Quality and Equitable Access

Genetic testing for susceptibility genes	33
The decision to test	37
Safeguarding the quality of genetic testing and services	39
How can quality assurance in molecular genetic testing be guaranteed?	39

Part III. Incentives and Barriers to Diffusion of Novel Genetic Tests

Impacts of stringent licensing agreements	47
Likely trends in demand: marketing directly to the patient/consumer	49
Private insurance and genetic testing	51

Part IV. Banking DNA

Genetic databases: trends and policy issues	57
Security of DNA and healthcare data banking facilities	57
Transborder flow of data, secondary use of data and consent	60

<i>Annex 1. Protecting the Most Vulnerable</i>	65
<i>Annex 2. Workshop Programme</i>	67
<i>Annex 3. Statement of Objectives and Scope of the Conference</i>	73
<i>Annex 4. Ad Hoc Working Definition of Genetic Testing</i>	76

List of Boxes

1. Using SNPs in clinical trials: feasibility and policy implications	23
2. Haemoglobin disorders in the United Kingdom	26
3. Estimates of Cancer Risk in BRCA1 and BRCA2 Mutation Carriers.....	35
4. Quality assurance in Europe	41
5. Ensuring the quality of genetic testing in the United States	43
6. What is cryptography?	60
7. The Icelandic health sector database	62