An Evidence Framework for Genetic Testing (NASEM Report)

Seeks to advance the development of an adequate evidence base for genetic tests to improve patient care and treatment. Additionally, recommends a framework for decision-making regarding the use of genetic tests in clinical care.

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for the 03/27/2017 report.

WHAT IT DOES

The Department of Defense asked the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to form a committee to study and provide recommendations on genetic testing in clinical care. The result was a report released by the Committee on the Evidence Base for Genetic Testing entitled An Evidence Framework for Genetic Testing.

Advances in genetics and genomics are transforming medical practice, resulting in a dramatic growth of genetic testing in the health care system. The rapid development of new technologies, however, has also brought challenges, including the need for rigorous evaluation of the validity and utility of genetic tests, questions regarding the best ways to incorporate them into medical practice, and how to weigh their cost against potential short- and long-term benefits. As the availability of genetic tests increases so do concerns about the achievement of meaningful improvements in clinical outcomes, costs of testing, and the potential for accentuating medical care inequality.

Given the rapid pace in the development of genetic tests and new testing technologies, An Evidence Framework for Genetic Testing seeks to advance the development of an adequate evidence base for genetic tests to improve patient care and treatment. Additionally, this report recommends a framework for decision-making regarding the use of genetic tests in clinical care.

(Content modified from the National Academies Press)