

Main Subtopics within Genetics and the Future of the Health Care System

1. How genomics may transform clinical care
2. How health care reforms may affect the development of genomic diagnostics and therapeutics
3. How insights from genetics may inform health care reform
4. How insights from genetics and epigenetics may shape future approaches to reducing health disparities.

A Few Key Questions to Consider in this Session

- What policies are needed to promote the development of cost-effective genetic and genomic technologies?
- Will reforms impede the development of cost-effective genetic technologies? And if so, how can the proposals be revised in a way that avoids this harm while preserving the reform's benefits?

A Few Key Questions to Consider in this Session (continued)

- Should reforms be formulated to take into account patients' individual genetic differences?
 - For example, should comparative effectiveness studies distinguish between different genetic subpopulations? Similarly, should the idea of paying a provider based on patient outcome reflect the fact that a patient's genetics affects their outcome?
- Finally, a broader question seems relevant as well: Will a personalized medicine approach to health care, with its emphasis on new genetic technologies and patients' differences, support or undermine the goals of health care reform: namely, improved access to health care, improved quality of care, and reduced costs?