



Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri
ITALIAN NATIONAL BIOETHICS COMMITTEE

ITALIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR BIOSECURITY,
BIOTECHNOLOGY AND LIFE SCIENCES

**GENETIC SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING AND
PERSONALISED MEDICINE**

15th July 2010

Abstract

The Opinion is divided into two sections devoted, respectively, to: “Scientific aspects of susceptibility testing in multifactorial diseases of adults and the concept of personalised medicine”; “Rules for good clinical practice, genetic counselling, deontological, bioethical and legal aspects”. These sections are followed by conclusions and bioethical recommendations. The opinion is completed by a glossary and four annexes containing : a list of international and supranational institutional documents on genetic testing; the 2007 census of Italian medical genetics carried out by the Italian Society of Human Genetics; the Agreement between the Government, the Regions and the autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano on “Implementation of the guidelines for medical genetics activities” (Labour, Health and Social Policies) of 2009; and finally an extract of rules on granting licenses to advertise health products.

Considering the increasing availability in the “health market” of genetic tests promising to determine the susceptibility to complex common diseases, the Committees hope that genetics studies provide scientific results applicable to clinical practice and recommend to citizens/consumers a cautious use of genetic testing and an adequate genetic counselling.