

GENE EDITING

Policy Report by The Buchanan Institute

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The Gene Editing policy proposal focuses on the feasibility of widespread application of genome medicine into the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK. Genomic Medicine has the potential to transform the lives of so many people by improving patient diagnosis, facilitating quick intervention and targeted treatment. It can transform healthcare and significantly improve the health of the population.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Implementing lifelong training programs for the NHS workforce.

Given the ever-changing nature of genomics, this is necessary to keep healthcare professionals updated with the newest findings and procedures.

2. Targeting genome editing research.

Genome reading can substantially improve diagnosis and treatment, but lacks the ability to address genetic diseases. Genome writing offers the possibility of making specific corrections to DNA so that these and other fatal diseases can finally be treated.

3. Investing in educating the general public.

Public support and trust will be critical once Genomic Medicine programs are developed and offered to the population. Currently, only 10% of the British population report knowing a great deal or fair amount about the subject matter, while 35% report knowing nothing.

4. Increase funding.

The House of Commons Science and Technology Committee has warned that the advancement of Genomic Medicine in the NHS is being held back by delays in infrastructure development and reduced training budgets. National genomic laboratories also present deep regional inequalities in their geographical distribution and reach. The COVID-19 pandemic might pose a further complication for the financing of Genomic Medicine.

