

La salute come coefficiente dell'equità sociale nell'era della medicina post-genomica

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Abstract: In this study I investigate the idea of social fairness in health through the lens of egalitarian justice, taking into account the difficulty involved in setting out a concept of health in a post-genomic society and the attempt to implement the egalitarian ideal in current welfare systems. I discuss medical genetics, and in particular the predictive medicine which has been emerging in connection with the growth of genetic diagnostics, in order to illustrate the difficulties we face as we undertake to bring egalitarian theories of social justice to bear on the health sector. I point out how the expanded menu of therapeutic options afforded by post-genomic medicine has developed in tandem with an increasing emphasis on individual choice, and I consider how this ought to be taken into account in working out an egalitarian view of health informed by a prioritarianism approach requiring ad hoc policies weighted toward the worst-off, arguing in favour of differential treatment if we are to achieve equal opportunity in health care and remove the obstacles to the full development of the human person.

Keywords: Health, Post-genomic medicine, Justice as fairness, Prioritarianism.