Genomics and personalised medicine

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To find out how you can drow on UK expertise in genomics, contact Healthcare UK:

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Foreword

e 100,000 Genome Project to sequence 100,000 of the genomes of NHS nts and combine with NHS data, led by Genomics England, the UK is a world ader in genomics, and is already at an advanced stage of a systematic long-term plan for integrating genomic and personalised medicine into the day-to-day delivery of healthcare.

medicine service.

International interest in the UK's approach to genomics and personalised medicine is growing, and there is huge potential for this expertise to be shared with governments, healthcare providers and commercial companies. This prospectus explains what genomics and personalised medicine are, how they can be applied, and why the UK is at the forefront of this field.

and academia.

I trust you will find this brochure both interesting and thought provoking. I also hope it will encourage you to explore areas for cooperation with our leading institutions and companies.

George Freeman MP **Minister for Life Sciences**



The NHS will be the world's first healthcare system to launch a genomic

The UK is investing heavily to set up the necessary infrastructure and levels of service integration to deliver population-wide benefits from genomics. We are in the process of creating an unparalleled end-to-end service, integrating every step of the genomic pathway to maximise patient benefit. You can draw on this knowledge and experience to invest in the facilities and services needed to optimise these benefits. Genomics is complex field, but finding suitable commercial partners in the UK need not be. The simplest way to access this expertise is through Healthcare UK.

Healthcare UK is a joint initiative between the UK Government's Department of Health, the NHS England and UK Trade & Investment. We connect UK expertise to business opportunities, drawing on our broad network across the NHS, private sector

Genomics - transforming medicine in the 21st century

66*As the microscope* and x-rays revolutionised *medicine in the 19th* and 20th centuries, so knowledge of the human genome will dramatically change medicine in the 21st century. **99**

Sir Bruce Keogh

Medical Director. NHS England

Genomics - the study of an organism's complete set of genetic instructions - is revolutionising medicine. The ability to sequence the genetic code of a large sample of the population is revealing how small variations in our DNA can change our vulnerability to different diseases - and thus how medicine can be personalised for better prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

To personalise treatment and surveillance we can use genomic information...



... to develop new treatments based on the effects of genomic changes

What are genomics and personalised medicine?

Generalize has transformed our understanding of disease and our ability eliver care in a way that is specific and personal to each individual patient. By establishing the sequence of an individual's genetic material it is possible to identify sequences or mutations which are specific to that person. Not only can these sequences identify the cause or stage of a disease, or the risk of future disease, they can also help us to predict the likely benefits or side effects in response to a particular medication.

Genomics therefore opens up the shift towards personalised treatment - medicines and other treatments can be prescribed not just for their general effect on a disease, but for the way they interact with a specific patient according to their genetic makeup.

has taken hold.

The majority of treatment

may only be effective in

of patients

This is particularly important as health systems start to tackle the rising burden of non-communicable diseases - conditions with strong links to lifestyle such as diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular disease. Pharmaceutical companies recognise that currently their major treatments may only be effective in 30-60% of the population for these conditions.



This is a huge step forward as it also allows us to examine the underlying causes of ill-health - letting us tackle conditions before they have even started - rather than just identifying and managing patients once ill-health

The medical revolution

Neonatal diabetes - genomic diagnosis shaping precision management

- Mutations in over 25 different genes cause neonatal diabetes
- New genomic technology has found 5 new genetic subtypes which inform therapy options

management			
Mutations in over 25 different genes cause neonatal diabetes			
 New genomic technology has found 5 new genetic subtypes which inform therapy options 			
Mutation	Clinical outcome	Optional therapeutic strategy	
KCNJ11 p.V59M	Permanent diabetes and developmental delay	Sulphonylurea therapy	
EIF2AK3 p.E371*	Wolcott Rallison Syndrome	Liver transplant	
FOXP3 c.227delT	IPEX syndrome	Bone marrow transplant	
GATA6 c.1448-1455del	Syndromic pancreatic agenesis	Insulin and exocrine supplements	
STAT3 p.T716M	Multi-organ autoimmune disease	STAT3 inhibitor	



Approximately 40-60 percent of cutaneous melanomas carry mutations which activate a gene called BRAF which then leads to further tumour growth.

The vast majority (80-90 percent) of these BRAF-activating mutations are the result of a small change in one tiny section of DNA.

Safe use of azathioprine

Azathioprine is used to treat many diseases in rheumatology and dermatology. The drug is converted to its active metabolites by several enzymes, the most critical of which is thiopurine methyltransferase (TPMT).

Low levels of TPMT activity results in the overproduction of azathioprine metabolites that are toxic to bone marrow, leading to bone marrow suppression and potentially life-threatening side effects.

the TPMT gene.

appropriate dose



dvanced melanoma

Melanoma is a common and often fatal skin cancer where the cancer cells have frequent genetic mutations.

The biological therapy drug vermurafenib interferes with the function of the BRAF gene and is therefore used for those patients with the relevant mutation where BRAF has been activated.

TPMT activity is affected by variations of the genetic sequence of

Individuals carrying certain mutations may therefore be at higher risk of adverse side effects from azathioprine treatment.

Genotyping of the TPMT gene allows the patients at higher risk of azathioprine drug-related toxicity to be identified and given an

Why partner with the UK?

Working with the UK enables a partner country to deliver the latest medical advances to its citizens by linking directly to stateof-the art advances in the fastest moving area of medical science.

There has never been a better time to develop genomics and personalised medicine services in partnership with the UK. We have already established the infrastructure and facilities that form the foundation for these services. With a clear strategy in place to increase the use of genomic information in day-to-day clinical medicine, a stream of new programmes will be introduced in the UK over the coming decade. Few countries are so well prepared - and many risk falling behind.

You can draw on the wealth of experience that has taken us to this advanced stage and reap the rewards from the transfer of groundbreaking procedures as they are developed. There are major advantages for countries who undertake this transition in partnership with the UK. It is extremely complex to create and develop the systems, processes and infrastructure for testing, analysing, interpreting and handling the information within the human genome.

Here are just some of the reasons why international healthcare organisations are looking to the UK to take forward the next stage of their genomics programmes.

The NHS:

Treats 1 million patients every 36 hours

Delivers **300** million family doctor consultations per year

Is ranked the **best** healthcare system of **11** advanced economies

The UK - home of life science discoveries

The UK has a rich heritage of life science discovery that has transform scientific knowledge and continues to unlock clinical and commerce opportunities. Many of the major scientific discoveries relating to genomics have been made in the UK, from the identification of the structure of DNA by Watson and Crick to the sequencing of the human rename at the Sanger Centre in Cambridge. We continue this tradition t wh some of the best universities and research institutions in the

The National Health Service

The National Health Service (NHS) is the v aest integrated health system. It has earned an inter utation for excellence for meeting the complex healthcar ts of a diverse population, treating one million patients every bours and delivering 300 million family doctor consultations rich mix of state-owned and private organisations provide ree at the point of need in a culture that puts patients first. Our in Exhational partners benefit from working with a genuinely world-class system. The US-based Commonwealth Fund found the NHS to be the best healthcare system studied in 11 advanced economies, including Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands and Australia.

100,000 genomes from **70,000** patients will be sequenced

Noverniber

Over **6,000** rare conditions have been identified

ategy for success

national scale.

Building on firm foundations

genomes project.

The 100,000 genomes project

This landmark project, led by Genomics England Ltd, will generate a stepchange in our understanding of the link between genetic mutations and rare inherited conditions, cancer and infectious diseases. The project will sequence 100,000 genomes from around 70,000 NHS patients with these conditions. The combination of genomic sequence data with medical records is creating a ground-breaking resource that will translate directly into better patient care in both the UK and our partner countries.

The benefits of scale

Population size is an important factor when it comes to gathering the breadth of data needed to build genomic knowledge and experience. Although so-called 'rare disease' is surprisingly common - more than 6,000 individual conditions have already been identified - each condition may only affect a handful of people in a small population. Only a health service serving a population of many tens of millions will see a large enough group of similar patients to enable advice on targeted treatment. Partnering with the UK brings these benefits of scale - your patients will benefit from the combined knowledge of a genomics programme that will be applied on a national basis.

nslating genomic breakthroughs into direct benefit to patients requires a change in clinical care pathways. This creates the need for extensive training of clinical staff and the development of new systems and arrangements for care, as well as new diagnostics, sophisticated analytics and information technology. Partnership with the UK can help international healthcare providers plan effectively for these changes. We have a clear strategy for using our existing infrastructure to develop and introduce genomics and personalised medicine into every day clinical care on a

The infrastructure for our ambitious long-term development programme is in place. The NHS has been running a network of genetics services for many years, where our major hospitals work closely with universities and research institutions. These networks have joined together within regions to form Genomic Medical Centres, collaborating to take genomics and personalised medicine to the next stage and support the 100,000

Growth through innovation

Many key technologies have been developed in the UK. The scale of the 100,000 genome project has created an environment for greater innovation and, in particular, has required linking of different technologies.

Some of the latest technologies in use in the UK are:

- DNA sequencing by synthesis technology (SBS) the newest generation of instruments which can generate over 1 terabase (Tb) of data per run.
- direct, electronic analysis of single molecules using nanopore science
- software for accurate, rapid and scalable interpretation of the entire DNA sequence of an individual.

Collaboration works...

We can increase the speed at which we use our growing understanding of the complex links between our genetic code and disease through collaboration between genomic centres across the world. These partnerships can bring together information from different populations create new medical knowledge that benefits everyone.

...and the UK is good at it

UK organisations have a long tradition of working in partnership to build healthcare capacity and capability across the globe. Many countries continue to use the UK model of medical education, to mple. A large number of doctors from other countries either ed in the UK or accessed training and examination in their own contries through our Medical Royal Colleges. This enables patient und the world to benefit from UK standards of medical care. Many universities and a growing number of hospitals have already national partnerships.



Wellcome Library, London

Building a service you can trust

enetic information is highly personal and potentially very powerful. fers insights into our past, future and the future of our children and descendants. It is also complex to interpret, and has the potential for misuse or to cause unnecessary alarm if poorly managed. Governments and healthcare organisations overseas that are developing a genomics programme will need to consider the sort of steps the UK is taking to address the ethical and security issues, as well as focusing on the medical benefits. These include:

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- information
- independent experts.



• ensuring the supply of skilled professionals to interpret the information and recommend appropriate action

• training doctors to keep them up to speed with this rapidly evolving field and working to the highest ethical standards

• developing the necessary processes and protocols so that people have complete trust in all those with access to their genetic

 building robust IT systems and processes that professionals and the public have total confidence in

establishing tight regulation and close monitoring of the services by

Creating a genomics service

Introducing genomic and personalised medicine is a complex operation. Many activities and processes need to be integrated and this requires multiple organisations to work seamlessly together. The rigour and regulation of the testing procedure is vital, of course, but from a clinical perspective the ultimate focus for a new programme should be on improved care for patients.

The following section sets out the essential elements involved in creating a genomics and personalised medicine programme. The UK's current and future approach is also described alongside each stage. To understand the UK's approach, however, you need first to understand the role of a network of centres that lies at the heart of our programme - Genomic Medicine Centres.

Genomic Medicine Centres

The Government has created a national network of integrated Genomic Medicine Centres (GMCs), which have been built around the specialist care of rare diseases and cancer. They work closely with Genomics England and Health Education England. The GMCs bring together the existing NHS network of genetics services which include more than 200 consultant geneticists as well as existing laboratory services. The GMCs work with existing specialist genetic testing, across multiple hospitals to see patients from across the country. They work close counsellors who provide explanation and support to patients an saud of specialists with specific areas of expertise, including on genetics and cardiac genetics.

The GMCs include cancer centres which have the ful of diagnostic and specialist services and are at the hub of region ncer networks. Crucial to their success, the GMCs work closely with academic and industry partners in each English region an a focus for innovation and research. Their first priorities are to icently and enrol patients suitable for the 100,000 genomes p nd drive forward the national training agenda. GMCs typically se e apopulation of up to 5 million and wing range of local services in every provide the regional focus for part of the country.

Similar arrangements are under development in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.







Steps to creating a genomics service...







Developing new diagnostics, analytics, information and health records

 Set up laboratory testing for genetic abnormalities or disease risk including sample handling and storage, genotyping, use of arrays, whole genome sequencing, bio banks etc.

- Develop cancer genetic molecular diagnostics
- Develop analytics, bioinformatics and interpretation of genomic and clinical information
- Develop information technology to support systems and proces such as electronic patient records, bioinformatics, analytics handing and security

2. Developing new clinical pathways

- Providing clinical care of patients acros are pathway from pre-testing through to careful treatme d management strategies for individuals and t
- Ensuring patients feel infor h advice, counselling, and psychological support
- Care for patients with a high risk of disease, or lifelong actual or remote care, with necessary consultations and procedures undertaken as appropriate.
- Access to oncology clinical care for patients with cancer, based on genomic data and utilising personalised medicine.
- Set up systems to enable genotype-informed safe prescribing.

The NHS genetics service, academic research institutions and laboratories are well established and now networked regionally with GMCs.

es and services of an appropriate scale, GMCs link to the National Biosample Centre To access specialist mpe storage) and to Genomics England. This provides whole genome sequencing and (which provides analytics on and scale and co-ordinates the linked research and management of new discoveries.

d quality assurance of organisations in the supply chain ensures that rigorous handling and Accredi esses are in place to produce reliable and informative genome sequences that serve as a basis labor for fu un eatment.

With in each GMC, the designated cancer centre is developing molecular diagnostic laboratories for cancer le testing and sub-characterisation of tumours on the basis of genomics. This is opening the way for new approaches to treatment by oncologists and cancer surgeons.

Sequencing the whole genome from patients rapidly produces terabytes of genetic sequence data which needs to be compared between groups of people with and without disease. The national drive to develop systems to do this, and to train bioinformatics staff and analysts, is carried out by Genomics England, a group of universities and specialist commercial partners.

The NHS is investing in the information technology needed to link genomics data with day-to-day clinical care. There is a strong focus on robust data handling and data security - confidentiality of patient data is a cornerstone of the UK approach.

For very rare diseases, the NHS is setting up a growing number of national networks. These consist of two or three experts to whom all the relevant patients are referred, or who coordinate the care delivered by local trained staff. For more common diseases with a genetic basis (such as cystic fibrosis), there are regional experts in organisations linked to each of the GMCs who take on this leadership role and run dedicated clinics. The pathways of care for a growing number of such disorders are supported by guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), Royal Colleges and specialist professional organisations.

Cancer centres and their associated cancer networks link into GMCs, allowing oncologists, surgeons, physicians radiologists and the pathologists to review the precise genetic composition of tumours and design the appropriate personalised treatment for each individual patient. This enables rapid translation of new discoveries into patient benefit in every cancer service in the country.

and the UK's approach

Steps to creating a genomics service...







• Reproductive services made available, including prenatal genetic diagnosis and embryo selection in clinics which are rigorously regulated and inspected with transparent outcome data.

3. Developing research and development capability

- · Opportunities for all patients to participate in and gain benefit from clinical trials.
- Set up research and development partnerships in pharmacogenomics and development of personalised medicine.

4. Setting up a comprehensive education and training programme

 Creating a programme to educate and train doctors and oth healthcare professionals in regulated and guality assured courses, including in-service training, plus wider education public engagement.

5. Strong links to commercial organisations

- Develop links with pharmaceu panies to provide early access to new, precision r
- eating, growing medical technology Creation of a wealth-get sector producing devices, assays, reagents and early stage medicines.
- Engagement with a range of other businesses able to support the necessary infrastructure.

and the UK's approach

Each GMC has a fertility service able fer pre-gestational testing and IVF with embryo selection. This enables couples who carry the gene for a serious inherited disease to choose whether to prevent the mutation being transmitted to their children. It is vital that all fertility services offer the best outcomes. gene for a serious inherited disease to choose whether to prevent the The services are audited and accredited by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, a national regulatory organisation.

Within each GNC there are hospitals that are active in clinical trials, including some with dedicated facilities and specially trained staff. The NHS recognises that patients benefit from participation in their and annote maximum the number of people offered the opportunity to participate in them. This policy is a key component in cost ring rapid translation to clinical benefit.

GMC is linked into a number of universities. These are engaged in fundamental genomics research, evelopments to improve bioinformatics and analytics and the creation of new approaches to testing, monitoring and drug development. Many of these university departments already work in partnership with industry and pharmaceutical companies.

Training is an integral part of the UK's long term plan to advance the use of genomic information into mainstream clinical medicine. The Health Education England Genomics Education Programme comprises a range of qualifications, courses and resources for doctors and healthcare workers. Post-graduate courses have also been commissioned, delivered by universities linked to the GMCs. There is also a wider programme to educate the public about genomics and its implications, including through the use of social media.

The NHS has strong links with the pharmaceutical industry. Partnerships are focused on the rapid development of new precision medicines which will prevent or treat disease as early as possible. This is in keeping with the NHS's aim to use resources for keeping people healthy rather than treating them for advanced disease.

The UK's objective to increase the number of spin-out and wealth-generating medical technology companies is encouraging new innovations that international partners can benefit from. Innovation adoption is stimulated by joint working between local partners that include GMCs, universities, science parks, hospitals and primary care healthcare facilities. The 'Precision Medicine Catapult' helps companies convert prototypes to large scale commercial production.

There is growing expertise among the providers of commercial services in the UK that are essential to the development of the genomics programme infrastructure. We have world-leading legal practices with expertise in patents and intellectual property, skilled management consultancies and firms with relevant facility design expertise. London, the world's leading financial centre, provides access to investors and sources of capital. Confidence in the growth of genomics in the UK is strong, and the sector welcomes foreign direct investment.

UK capabilities

Overseas governments and healthcare providers can partner with UK providers for all of the stages involved in developing a genomics and personalised medicine programme. The type and level of support available from UK providers is truly flexible in nature. It could take the form of a consortium of UK providers with the combined expertise to build a country's capacity and capability to set up an entire programme. Alternatively, you may want just to access UK expertise for a specific element of your programme.

The components of the broad package of support available to you include:

Capacity and capability building. There is the expertise in the UK to support any requirement for new or improved infrastructure, facilities and processes.

Examples include:

- Strategy development, service design and business planning
- Setting up and training of clinical genetics teams, including counsellors
- Creation and management of facilities for sample collection, storing and testing
- Creation of modern molecular diagnostics laboratory for ca combined with staff training, high standards of governance quality assurance
- Development of the analytics capability to interpose with training of bioinformatics experts and an
- Support in creating an IT infrastructure nclude creating joint training programmes, opportun ner in design, development and procurement, and th local IT suppliers and related UK commercial o

Education and training. There are tunities to partner with the extensive education and tran grammes developed by UK universities for undergradual? raduate scientists and doctors. All the courses are quality concolled and meet standards determined by Health Education England. Partnership could involve educating and training staff in the UK, or support for developing your own programmes.

in new areas of medical research.

Ongoing support. UK organisations can become long-term partners to support the continuous improvement of genomic and personalise medicine services.

Examples include:

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- plus inherited diseases
- diagnostic information
- safe prescribing

Access to commercial organisations. There are exciting opportunities to build links with pharmaceutical companies, including those doing genomic studies as part of their programme of new drug development. Partnership opportunities also exist with UK medical technology companies that develop products for testing, patient monitoring or precision medicines.

You can also access expertise in every aspect of the services that support the development of critical infrastructure, including specialist legal firms, management consultancies, companies with expertise in facility development and investors and financial institutions who support the development of new business.

arch and development. Creating clinical trial units that link to UK tres gives local patients access to the latest international clinical trials. he patients will benefit and the partner country will develop its capability

 Training and accreditation of medical staff in interpreting test results and help with developing appropriate clinical pathways

Support from the UK network of experts for each of the 6000

 Support and training from the network of specialists in the UK cancer centres, including access to tumour-specific expertise that can personalise medicine in response to an individual's

Training and system development for genotype-informed

 Partnering in the creation of fertility services which meet best international standards, are accredited by the UK and provide access to the latest pre-gestational diagnostic testing and embryo selection.

Partnership approaches

We are now using personalised medicine in clinical practice and are accelerating to the stage where this approach benefits all patients. International partners to the UK's genomics programme can anticipate a decade of rapid and ground-breaking progress. A stream of linked but discrete development programmes is in the pipeline and the know-how and skills for these different elements will be transferred to our partners as they are developed.

Capability development - knowledge and skills transfer



he core principles of partnership and capability building, overseas nments and healthcare organisations can engage with UK expertise at fferent levels - examples of three possible models are set out below.

The Genomic Medicine Centre

In this model, the NHS would replicate the UK's approach by creating a Genomic Medicine Centre in the partner's country. This centre would undertake all the activities and services present in the UK centres. This in-country GMC would be a focus for training, with local experts, clinicians and patients all having access to the clinical expertise available in the UK. This centre could also act as the focus for clinical trials, research and development and local academic links. In this two-way relationship, technical and service developments in the UK would be transferred to the overseas GMC and vice versa. The in-country GMC therefore benefits from a depth of resource that is way beyond that available to any individual organisation.

The creation of an international network of sister centres linked to those in the UK will provide access to a deep pool of research and development and commercial expertise. Innovation sharing will be the fastest route to bring new clinical benefits to populations in different countries.

Institutional partnering

Where a country has already established a genomics organisation and the main elements of the programme are in place, partnership with a UK organisation can be the best way to access expertise in particular areas. This relationship can act as a conduit for links with other centres and a route to tap into new developments as they happen across the wider UK network.

Individual service-specific support

Where services are already well developed, a government, hospital or commercial organisation may still need help in a specific area. With so many individual organisations contributing to the UK's thriving national programme, the exact type of expertise required will be available. A close partnership with one UK organisation focussing on a particular element may be the most suitable arrangement.

Making partnership happen

To find out how you can draw on UK expertise to extend, improve and transform healthcare provision in your country, contact Healthcare UK

There is a powerful argument for creating a linked network of genomic medicine centres around the world so that patients, wherever they are, benefit from the latest personalised therapies. The UK is at the forefront of this field and is therefore the logical choice as a partner to other countries seeking to accelerate their own genomics programmes. We expect to make huge progress in the coming years, aided by the commitment from the UK Government to maintain the UK's status as a world leader in ground-breaking research into cancer and rare diseases.

Healthcare UK is your route to access the expertise within the UK's genomics sector. Whatever stage you are at in developing a programme for genomics and personalised medicine, we can bring together the right organisations to meet your needs.

Email: healthcare.uk@ukti.gsi.gov.uk Telephone: +44 (0)20 7215 5000 Web: www.gov.uk/healthcareuk









Healthcare

Healthcare UK

Healthcare UK is your route to access the expertise within the UK' healthcare sector. Whatever type of health facility, service or training programme you are planning, we can bring together the right UK organisations to meet your needs. Healthcare UK is a joint initiating between the UK Government's Department of Health, the NHS and UK Trade and Investment.

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