Genomics and the Right to Health Autonomy: A Survey of International Health Policies

Scott Emory Moore, MS, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Bonnie Holaday, PhD, RN, FAAN
Clemson University
Clemson, South Carolina, USA
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Scott Emory Moore, MS, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Bonnie Holaday, PhD, RN, FAAN
Clemson University
Clemson, South Carolina, USA
Disclosures

Authors:
Scott Emory Moore, MS, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
    Healthcare Genetics PhD Student, School of Nursing, Clemson University

Bonnie Holaday, PhD, RN
    Professor Emeritus, School of Nursing, Clemson University

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Objectives

1) The learner will be able to discuss three (3) international genomics and autonomy-related policies.

2) The learner will be able to describe the importance of international health policies for nursing.
International Policy: Overview

• There are a wide range of organizations that contribute to international policy.
• International policies tend to be broad reaching and take on different forms.
• Panels of content experts and stakeholders across the globe are included in discussions.
• Signing onto a policy is not equal to ratification or enforcement of policies by a country.
• This review examined focused on health and science-related policies.
International Health Policy: Organizations

• World Health Organization
• United Nations
  – Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
• European Convention For the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with Regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine
• Professional Organizations: International Council of Nurses, World Medical Association, Global Alliance for Genomics & Health
International Health Policy: Mechanisms

- Treaties
- General Comments
- Statements
- Declarations
International Health Policy: Genomics and Autonomy

• Important Early Steps
• Dealing with Genomics as a New and Evolving Science
• Preserving Human Rights and Autonomy in the Context of Genomics
International Health Policy: Important Early Steps

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

Article 27

- (§1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

- (§2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

(United Nations, 1948)
International Health Policy:
Addressing Genomics a New and Evolving Area
Dignity and Discrimination

Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights (1997)

Article 2

• (§a) Everyone has the right to respect for their dignity and for their human rights regardless of their genetic characteristics.

(UNESCO, 1997)
International Health Policy: Addressing Genomics a New and Evolving Area

Dignity and Discrimination

Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights (1997)

Article 6

- No one shall be subjected to discrimination based on genetic characteristics that is intended to infringe or has the effect of infringing human rights, fundamental freedoms and human dignity.

(UNESCO, 1997)
International Health Policy: Addressing Genomics a New and Evolving Area

Dignity and Discrimination


Chapter IV-Human Genome

Article 11-Nondiscrimination

- Any form of discrimination against a person on grounds of his or her genetic heritage is prohibited.

(COE, 1997)

Chapter IV-Human Genome

Article 13-Interventions on the human genome

An intervention seeking to modify the human genome may only be undertaken for preventive, diagnostic or therapeutic purposes and only if its aim is not to introduce any modification in the genome of any descendants.

(COE, 1997)
Autonomy

- **Autonomy** (in a genomic context) addresses a person’s ability to choose what happens both in research and clinical testing. Additionally, it has been added that this concept can include the right to participate in testing without being required to have results disclosed to them.

(WHO, 1997; Wolf, Annas, & Elias, 2013)
Introduction to Genomics:

Understanding the Fundamentals of Genetic Information

Objective:

To explore the significance of genomics in the context of international health policy and human rights.

Overview:

Genomics, the study of the entire genome, has profound implications for human health and rights. This presentation aims to discuss how genomics influences international health policies and the ethical considerations that arise.

I. The Importance of Genomics in International Health Policy

A. Definition of Genomics

Genomics is the study of the human genome, including the identification, mapping, and sequencing of all the genes within a genome. This学科 has revolutionized our understanding of genetics and its role in human health.

B. International Health Policy

International health policy is crucial for addressing global health challenges, including the emerging threats posed by genomics.

II. Human Rights and Genomics

A. Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights

The Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights (1997) is a seminal document that outlines the rights and responsibilities in the field of genomics.

1. Article 5

   (§c) The right of each individual to decide whether to be informed or not on the results of genetic examination and the resulting consequences should be respected.

(UNESCO, 1997)

B. Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations in genomics are essential to ensure that the rights of individuals are protected and that the benefits of genomics are equitably distributed.

III. Conclusion

The integration of genomics into international health policy requires careful consideration of human rights and ethical standards. Collaboration among nations and stakeholders is necessary to navigate the complexities of genomics and safeguard human rights.

References:

- Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights (1997)
- UNESCO, 1997
International Health Policy: Preserving Autonomy in the Context of Genomics

International Declaration on Human Genetic Data (2003)

Article 10

- When human genetic data … are collected for medical and scientific research purposes, the information provided at the time of consent should indicate that the person concerned has the right to decide whether or not to be informed of the results.

(UNESCO, 2003)
International Health Policy: Preserving Autonomy in the Context of Genomics

The Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (2005)

Article 16

- The impact of life sciences on future generations, including on their genetic constitution, should be given due regard.

(UNESCO, 2005)
Genomics in Nursing: Key Areas of Concern

• Privacy and confidentiality of genetic information
• Stigmatization and discrimination
• Uncertainties associated with gene tests
• Clinical applications of genetics

(ICN, 2009)
Nurses and International Health Policy: Next Steps

Be Aware

• Genetic knowledge is important for the future of nursing
  – Find out what the standards are for genomics in your country.
• Better understandings of international health policies can be very important for nurses
  – See how your country helps to influence international health policies
  – Learn about how your country applies international health policies

Be Active

• While international health policies address genetics and autonomy, there is still work to be done:
  – Nurses can help educate policy makers and influencers about genetics (WHO, 2014)
  – Take part in international policy making and shaping through professional organizations

Be Advocates

• Regardless of international health policy—advocacy for patient is still a central part of the work of nursing
  – Learn what your organizations do to protect patients engaging in genetic testing and research
References


