



Newborn Screening: Promoting Quality to Optimise Benefit and Reduce Harm

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Message from the Guest Editors

In this Special Issue, we present articles that seek to integrate practical requirements to operate and manage high-throughput public health programmes, maintaining and continually improving quality in all its aspects as it bears upon the wellbeing of the families and young patients who may be affected.

The topics to be covered will include: the role of accreditation in maintaining quality in the screening laboratory; the practice and use of external quality assurance to promote a culture of quality in the laboratory; the scrutiny of assay standardisation and methodology to maintain optimum assay performance; an understanding of the factors that affect uncertainty of measurement including blood spot quality and its potential impact on screening; the challenges posed by assuring quality in the genomic era; the importance of understanding the limitations of blood spot assays when used in patient monitoring; and, perhaps most crucially, the co-ordination of national proficiency testing schemes that seek to describe and monitor key performance indicators as they assess functionality within the newborn screening pathway as a whole.

