

Population Screening Act: Study of the quality of home genetic testing

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Executive summary

Health Council of the Netherlands



Hogeschool Leiden has requested a permit under the Population Screening Act (Dutch: WBO) for a study called “Check the test”.

The applicant wants to examine the quality of the results (i.e. the genetic profiles as reported) obtained from various selected home genetic testing kits and of the interpretations of those tests by those carrying out the tests and the people taking part in them. At the request of the State Secretary of Health, Welfare and Sport (Dutch: VWS), the Health Council of the Netherlands’ Committee on Population Screening has assessed this application for a permit against the requirements of the WBO.

The study design for “Check the Test” is population screening in which risk indicators can be revealed for severe conditions for which neither prevention nor treatment is currently possible, such as dementia and certain forms of cancer. The WBO states that permits may only be granted for this type of population screening if exceptional circumstances give reason to do so. The Committee’s opinion is that the applicant has not demonstrated this and it is therefore recommending to the State Secretary of Health, Welfare and Sport that a permit should not be granted for the study.



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