compilation, authored by world experts, of best practices in patient safety and METs.

METs are fundamentally changing the structure, process, and outcomes of health care. This book represents an invaluable resource for administrators, educators, and clinicians whose goal is to transform medicine to become more reliable and safe. It is a "must-read" for those seeking to advance METs and safer health care.

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Screening in disease prevention: What works?

Edited by W W Holland, S Stewart. Oxford:
Radcliffe Publishing, 2005, £27.95. ISBN 1
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Despite a rather uninviting title which gives little away about the key areas and messages

covered in the book, this is a helpful addition to the literature. Its main aim seems to be not so much to explore "what works", but rather to examine how the issues and debate in screening have developed with new advances. There are many such areas including antenatal and neonatal screening, and in the elderly age group too, but the principal example of development comes from genetics. The authors explore how this area has altered the scope and nature of screening and, to an extent, this redefines screening itself. Clearly it may be detecting disease (such as cystic fibrosis in neonatal testing), but it is more likely to be testing for risk of disease and carrier status. The latter can be undertaken in the form of carrier testing, prenatal testing, pre-implantation testing, newborn screening, or preventive screening (such as BRCA1/2 tests). The developments in predictive testing and overlap with "traditional" screening require a redefinition of the conventional criteria and characteristics of "effective screening" programmes. The authors take a critical look at the practice of screening throughout the various stages of life, examining practical, ethical, and economic and other delivery implications for a range of

specific screening or testing programmes. They note how the term "patient" is more difficult now to justify within these service developments, and we think more in terms of consumers and service users. Such terms more appropriately describe people who have most often hitherto not been identified to have health needs in relation to the given tests. With this shift, though, come changes in the way we should look at uptake of tests (whether it is desirable to maximise uptake), variation in uptake between sociodemographic groups in the population, and the ways we communicate information about screening or testing programmes to enable users to make informed choices about participation in screening programmes. These consequences of the developments in screening are also explored, and so this book is likely to be useful for a range of health and policy professionals and those in training to orientate briefly but effectively to wide ranging debates in this important area.

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