

## ABOUT CLINICAL TRIALS

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



#### **Will I still see my regular doctor?**

Yes, you will still be under the care of your regular doctor for your general health. You will see the study doctor or nurse for planned study visits.

#### **Do I have to pay anything?**

There is no charge for study-related medical care, including study visits, medications, treatments, and procedures. Transportation and other costs may be provided.

#### **What should I think about before joining a clinical trial?**

Before joining a clinical trial, it is important to learn as much as possible. Discuss your questions and concerns with members of the health care team conducting the trial. Also, discuss the trial with your health care provider to determine whether or not the trial is a good option based on your current treatment. Be sure you understand:

- what happens during the trial
- the type of health care you will receive
- any related costs once you are enrolled in the trial
- the benefits and risks associated with participating

#### **How long is a clinical trial?**

The length of each trial is different. Some last a few months, others last for several years. You are free to leave the trial at any time.

#### **What are clinical trials?**

A clinical trial, also known as a clinical study, is scientific research designed to test if a medicine or medical device is effective, safe, and well-tolerated for use by people. A study seeks to answer scientific questions and to find better ways to prevent, diagnose, or treat disease. Medical products, such as drugs and diagnostic tests, must be studied in clinical trials before they can be approved for public use.

## ABOUT CLINICAL TRIALS: FAQ

### PAGE 2

#### Who are the key people in a clinical trial?

If you are considering volunteering for a clinical trial, you should feel comfortable about asking the research team and others important questions to help you decide and through each step of your participation. Here are a few of the key people who can help.

**Study coordinator** is a nurse or other health care professional who manages the daily clinical trial activities. They play a critical role in ensuring that all guidelines are followed to help keep participants safe. The study coordinator is often the first point of contact for any questions you may have.

**Principal investigator**, also called the study doctor, is a medical doctor in charge of conducting the clinical trial at his or her medical facility. You will have an opportunity to ask the study doctor any questions during the informed consent process, as well as throughout the clinical trial. If you are seeing a specialty doctor, there is a chance that your doctor is also an investigator for a clinical trial.

**Your family or friend** -- it's a good idea to bring a family member or friend to your initial visit with the research team. They can be an extra set of ears to hear the information provided by the study team and can ask additional questions you might not consider. They can also take notes so you can focus on the discussion. Having a trusted family member or friend can also help you weigh your options for participating.

#### Is there a chance I might get a placebo?

In clinical trials that include placebos, quite often neither patients nor their doctors know who is receiving the placebo and who is being treated with the experimental drug. Many cancer clinical trials, as well as trials for other serious and life-threatening conditions, do not include placebo control groups. In these cases, all participants receive the experimental drug. Ask the trial coordinator whether there is a chance you may get a placebo rather than the experimental drug. Then, talk with your doctor about what is best for you.

#### How does clinical research make a difference to me and my family?

Only through clinical research can we gain insights and answers about the safety and effectiveness of treatments and procedures. Groundbreaking scientific advances in the present and the past were possible only because of participation of volunteers, both healthy and those with an illness, in clinical research. Clinical research requires complex and rigorous testing in collaboration with communities that are affected by the disease. As research opens new doors to finding ways to diagnose, prevent, treat, or cure disease and disability, clinical trial participation is essential to help us find the answers.