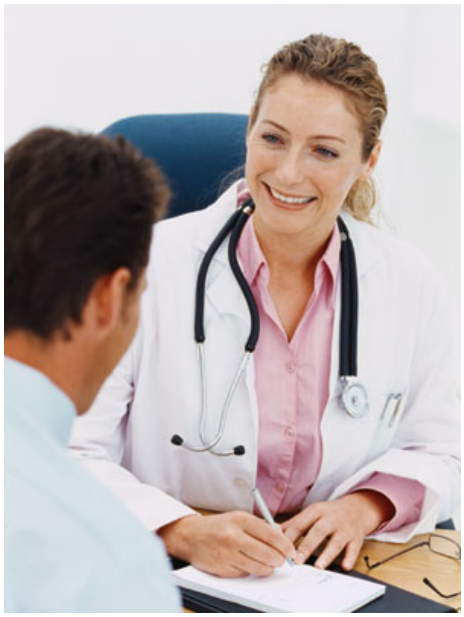
Clinical Trials

Information Sheet



What are clinical trials?
Clinical trials are research studies used to find better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

Clinical trials involve people who volunteer to participate. Every trial has a person in charge, usually a doctor, who is called the principal investigator.

Why are clinical trials important?
Clinical trials are key to developing new methods to prevent, detect and treat cancer.

Almost all of the cancer treatments that are available today are the result of a clinical trial.

What are the benefits and risks of participating in clinical trials?
Patients can benefit from learning about all of their treatment options, which may include a clinical trial. There are several possible benefits to joining a clinical trial, including:

- Access to new treatments before they are available to others
- Receiving expert medical care at a leading healthcare facility
- Helping doctors learn more about cancer and assisting future cancer patients

There are risks to clinical trials. They may include:

- Extra tests or procedures
- Extra visits to the doctor
- Unexpected side-effects
- Additional costs
- The new treatment may not be better than, or even as good as, the standard treatment
- Even if the new treatment benefits some patients, it might not work for you

Are clinical trials safe?
Clinical trials must follow strict federal rules and regulations to protect the safety of trial participants. There are risks to clinical trials, including extra tests or procedures, unexpected side effects and the fact that the new treatment may not be better than, or even as good as, the standard treatment. All known risks are discussed with potential participants before they enroll in a clinical trial.

Turn over for more information

Clinical Trials

How do I join a clinical trial?
Your doctor may recommend a trial for you or you can talk to your doctor to see if you are eligible to participate.

Each clinical trial has guidelines about who can participate, including:

- Having a certain type or stage of cancer
- Having received (or not received) a certain kind of treatment in the past
- Being in a certain age group
- Medical history
- Current health status

If you decide to participate in a clinical trial, you will be required to sign an informed consent document. A copy of the informed consent document will be given to you. It will include the contact information for the principal investigator and the study coordinator. You can contact the principal investigator or the study coordinator if you have questions or concerns while you are enrolled in the clinical trial.

<u>You can stop your participation in a clinical trial at any time.</u>

Where can I get more information?
The National Cancer Institute provides accurate and up-to-date information about clinical trials, cancer types, prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and end of life care.
Phone: 1-800-4CANCER (1-800-422-6237)
Website: www.cancer.gov

The Rural Cancer Network (RCaN) offers other user-friendly, cancer educational handouts. For more information about questions to ask your doctor about clinical trials, please see the "Clinical Trials: Questions to Ask Your Doctor" handout.
Website: www.ruralcancernetwork.org

Carbone Cancer Center
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

ruralcancernetwork.org

Cancer Health Disparities Initiative

For more local information, please contact:

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