

What to Consider Before Participating in a Clinical Trial

You should know as much as possible about the clinical trial and feel comfortable asking the members of the healthcare team questions about it, the care expected while in a trial and the cost of the trial. The following questions might be helpful to discuss with the healthcare team. Some of the answers to these questions will be found in the informed consent document.

- What is the purpose of the study?
- Who is going to be in the study?
- Does the study involve a placebo or a treatment already on the market?
- Why do researchers believe the new treatment being tested may be effective? Has it been tested before and have the results been published?
- What kinds of tests and treatments are involved?
- How do the possible risks, side effects, and benefits in the study compare with my current treatment?
- How might this trial affect my daily life?
- How long will the trial last, and what will I be asked to do as a participant?
- Will hospitalization be required?
- Can anyone find out if I'm participating?
- Who will pay for the treatment? Will my insurance cover the costs?
- Will I be reimbursed for other expenses like travel or childcare?
- What type of long-term follow up care is part of this study?
- How will I know that the treatment is working? Will results of the trials be provided to me?
- If the treatment works for me, will I be able to continue using it once the trial is over?
- Who will be in charge of my care? Will I be able to see my own doctor?
- What are the credentials and research experience of the physician and study staff?
- Does the physician/investigator have any financial or special interest in the clinical study?
- What will happen to my medical care if I stop participating?