

Questions to Ask about Clinical Trials

Here are some questions you may want to ask your doctor or research staff about a clinical trial. [You can learn more about clinical trials at healthforallproject.org](http://healthforallproject.org).

Questions about the Trial

- What is the purpose of the trial?
- Why do researchers believe the trial treatment may be better than current treatments?
- Is there a reason the trial treatment might not be better?
- How long will I be in the trial?
- What kinds of tests and treatments does the trial use?
- How will the doctor know if the treatment is working?
- How will I learn about the trial's results?
- When do I have to make up my mind about this trial?
- Who can answer questions I have during and after the trial?
- Who will be in charge of my care?
- Can I talk to someone who has been in the trial?

Write Your Notes Here:

Questions about Risks and Benefits

- What are the new treatment's possible side effects?
- What are the possible benefits?
- How do this trial's possible risks and benefits compare to the standard treatment's risks and benefits?

Write Your Notes Here:

Questions about Your Rights

- How will researchers keep my health information private?
- What happens if I decide to leave the trial?

Write Your Notes Here:

Questions about Costs

- Will I have to pay for any of the treatments or tests?
- What costs will my health insurance cover?
- Who pays if I'm injured in the trial?
- Who can help answer any questions from my insurance company?

Write Your Notes Here:

Questions about Daily Life

- How could the trial affect my daily life?
- How often will I have to come to the hospital or clinic?
- Will I have to stay in the hospital during the clinical trial? How often? For how long?
- Will I have to travel long distances?
- Will I have check-ups after the trial?

Write Your Notes Here:

Questions about Comparing Choices

- What are my other treatment choices, including standard treatments?
- How does the trial treatment compare with the other treatment choices?

Write Your Notes Here:

Notes on this document

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) provided funding support for this project. The NLM grant number is G08LM012688. Health for All content does not necessarily represent NLM's official views.

We provide the information in this document to help you learn more about clinical trials. We do not mean this document to be a 100% comprehensive guide. We do not mean for anyone to take this document as medical advice. Seek help from a medical professional for any medical issues or questions.

The Health for All team adapted questions in this document from “Questions to Ask Your Doctor about Treatment Clinical Trials”. [Click here to see that clinical trial question list from the National Cancer Institute.](#) The Health for All team accessed that webpage on May 15, 2018 to create this document. We last updated this document on May 15, 2018. See the full details on our sources below.

Sources

National Cancer Institute. “Questions to Ask Your Doctor about Treatment Clinical Trials”. *Cancer.gov* National Cancer Institute, last reviewed 22 June, 2016. Web. Accessed May 25, 2018. [https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/treatment/clinical-trials/questions]