



SUPPORTing diversity in  
cancer clinical trials  
**SUPPORT TRIAL**

# 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 [supporttrials.org](https://supporttrials.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:

## Question about Risks and Benefits

- What are the new treatment's possible side effects?
- What are the possible benefits?
- How does 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:**

## Question about Cost

- 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:

## Question 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:

## Question about Treatment 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

We offer information to help people learn more about clinical trials. We do not mean this document to be a complete guide. We also do not mean to provide any medical advice in this document. Seek help from a medical professional for any medical questions. This document was created by adapting questions from this document “Questions to ask before joining a clinical trial” from the National Cancer Institute. The webpage was accessed on May 15, 2018 to create this document. We last updated this document on September 6, 2024.

Source:

- National Cancer Institute. “Questions to ask before joining a clinical trial”. Cancer.gov National Cancer Institute, last reviewed 18 September, 2023. Web.  
[<https://www.cancer.gov/research/participate/clinical-trials/why-participate#questions-to-ask-before-joining-a-clinical-trial>]