

Questions to ask when considering a clinical trial

Prior to you deciding whether to take part in a trial or not, the researcher/investigator or member of the study team should discuss all aspects of the research with you and give you an opportunity to ask questions and have them satisfactorily answered. You may like to consider asking the researcher some of the following:

- What is the purpose of the trial?
- How frequently will I be required to go to the doctors or clinic?
- What kinds of test or examinations will I have to undergo during the trial?
- How long will I have to stay at the doctors or clinic for any tests/examinations and what is involved in each?
- Will I have to stay in hospital or at the research site? If so, for how long and how often?
- If there are surveys or questionnaires how long will they take?
- What will I have to pay for and how much will it cost? Will my health insurance cover any of the costs?
- Will there be any follow-up, and what will it involve?
- What will happen when the trial finishes?
- Are there any other treatment options I can consider? How do they compare with the treatment being studied?
- Does the treatment being tested have any side effects? If so, what are they, and how serious and severe?
- How do these side effects compare with side effects of standard treatment?
- What is the duration of the trial (i.e., how long will it go on for)?

References

[National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research \(2025\)](#)

TP G1 General information on trials

TP F1.1.1 Information to consider before entering a trial

TP F1.1.3 Definitions