

# How do I know if a clinical trial is right for me?

A cancer diagnosis is life-changing.

It comes with a lot of important decisions to make.



One decision includes: **Should I get standard treatment or take part in a research study called a clinical trial?**



Clinical trials help find the best ways to treat or prevent diseases like cancer so that patients can live longer and better lives.

Clinical trials may test a new medication, vaccine, medical device, or other kind of treatment.



Scientists will often spend many, many years in the lab before they are ready to test something new in people like you.



## Clinical trials are conducted in four stages, each with a different goal.

### Phase 1

(Under 100 people)



Find the safe dose and side effects in people

### Phase 2

(100-300 people)



Check safety and how well the treatment works

### Phase 3

(100s-1000s of people)



Compare the new treatment with standard treatments

### Phase 4

(1000s of people)



Watch for long-term effects of the newly approved treatment

Like with all treatment options, there are possible benefits and risks to think about before making a decision to join a clinical trial. You can ask your healthcare team if a clinical trial is right for you.

# Benefits

# Risks

- You may get early access to medications, vaccines, devices, or procedures that may improve cancer treatments.
- By taking part, you may help others with or at risk of getting cancer.
- The research team may follow up with you more closely than if you were getting standard care.

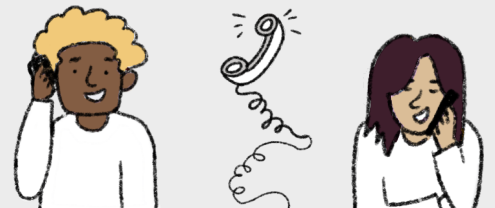
Share your unique experience to help increase diversity in clinical trials.



- The new treatment may not be better. Even if it works for some patients, it may not work for you.
- New treatments may have side effects that were not expected or do not happen with standard treatment.
- You may need more doctor visits or tests. Extra visits could result in additional costs, discomfort, or time. You are encouraged to check with your insurance about what will be covered.



It is always your choice to take part or not take part. You may find it helpful to talk with friends and family. It is also important to know that even if you choose to join a clinical trial, you can decide to leave it at any time.



Your doctor and the rest of your care team can help answer any questions you have. This will help you decide if joining a clinical trial is right for you — and, if so, which one!



Find out more at: <https://www.uchicagomedicine.org/cancer/research/clinical-trials> and <https://www.cancer.gov/research/participate>.