

## Key Questions to Ask Before Participating in a Clinical Trial

1. What is the main purpose of this study?
2. Does the study involve a placebo or a treatment that is already on the market?
3. How will the treatment be given to me?
4. How long is the study going to last and what will I be asked to do as a participant?
5. What has been learned about the study treatment and are any study results published?
6. Do I have to pay for any part of the study? Will my insurance cover these costs?
7. Is there any reimbursement for travel costs?
8. Will I be able to see my own doctor?
9. If the treatment works for me, can I keep using it after the study?
10. Can anyone find out whether I'm participating in the clinical trial?
11. Will I receive any follow-up care after the study has ended?
12. What will happen to my medical care if I stop participating in the study?
13. Does the physician/investigator have any financial or special interest in the clinical study?
14. What are the credentials and research experience of the physician and study staff?



## Resources

### General

**CISCRP** - a non profit dedicated to educating and informing the public about clinical research participation.  
[www.ciscrp.org](http://www.ciscrp.org) • 1-877 MED HERO

**Search Clinical Trials** - Public service that compiles clinical trial listings from multiple sources. You can also request a free search for clinical trials in your area.  
[www.searchclinicaltrials.org](http://www.searchclinicaltrials.org) • 1-877 MED HERO

**Acurian** - Clinical research information  
[www.acurian.com](http://www.acurian.com) • 1-866-566-5966

**CenterWatch** - Clinical research information & Listing service  
[www.centerwatch.com](http://www.centerwatch.com) • 1-866-219-3440

**PhRMA Clinical Study Results Database**  
[www.clinicalstudyresults.org](http://www.clinicalstudyresults.org)

### Government

**AIDS Clinical Trials Information Service** - English and Spanish  
[www.aidsinfo.nih.gov](http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov) • 1-800-448-0440

**ClinicalTrials.gov** - English and Spanish  
[www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) • 1-800-411-1222

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**  
[www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov) • 1-888-INFO-FDA (1-888-463-6332)

**Healthfinder** - English and Spanish  
[www.healthfinder.gov](http://www.healthfinder.gov)

**The National Cancer Institute (NCI)** - English and Spanish  
[www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov) • 1-800-4-CANCER

**National Institutes of Health (NIH)** - English and Spanish  
[www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov) • 1-301-496-4000

### Disease specific

**American Cancer Society (ACS)** - English and Spanish  
[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) • 1-800-227-2345

**American Diabetes Association** - English and Spanish  
[www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org) • 1-800-342-2383

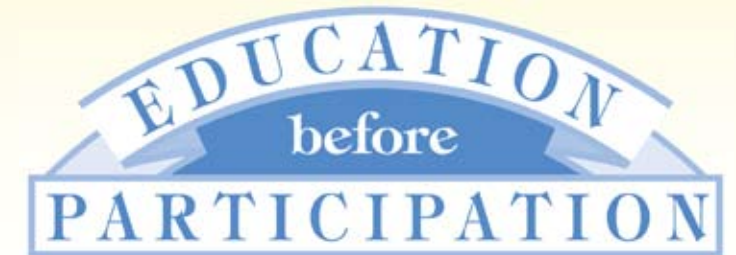
**American Lung Association** - English and Spanish  
[www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org) • 1-800-586-4872

**Alzheimer's Association**  
[www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) • 1-800-272-3900

**Arthritis Foundation**  
[www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org) • 1-800-283-7800

**National Multiple Sclerosis Society** - English and Spanish  
[www.nationalmssociety.org](http://www.nationalmssociety.org) • 1-800-344-4867

**Parkinson's Disease Foundation**  
[www.pdf.org](http://www.pdf.org) • 1-800-457-6676



Helping you make an informed decision about clinical research participation.



CISCRP is an independent non-profit organization founded for the purpose of educating the public, patients, medical/research communities, media, and policy makers in order to promote greater understanding and awareness of clinical research participation and the role it plays in public health.



1-877-MED HERO • [www.ciscrp.org](http://www.ciscrp.org)



## How Volunteers are Protected

- To protect the rights and welfare of clinical research participants, U.S. Federal Agencies including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) & the National Institutes of Health (NIH) oversee much of the medical research in the U.S.
- Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) oversee the centers where clinical research studies are conducted. IRBs review and approve study protocols to ensure that a clinical trial is ethical and that volunteers' rights are protected.
- A participant in a clinical trial has access to the IRB that is overseeing the research and access to a volunteer advocate, the physician and staff conducting the trial.
- Federal agencies inspect individuals and institutions conducting research. They also inspect IRBs.
- Some IRBs are accredited much like hospitals can be "accredited" and some research investigators and staff are "certified" as research professionals.

*CISCRP is not involved in recruiting patients for clinical trials nor is it involved in conducting clinical trials.*

## About Clinical Trials

### What are clinical trials?

- A research study involving human volunteers to answer specific health questions.
- Carefully conducted clinical trials are the safest and fastest way to find treatments that work in people and new ways to improve health.
- Clinical trials are conducted according to a plan called a protocol.
- A protocol describes what types of patients may enter the study; schedules of tests and procedures, drugs, dosages, and length of study, as well as outcomes that will be measured.
- Each person participating in the study must agree to follow the protocol.

### Why are clinical trials conducted?

- To see if a new drug or device is safe and effective for people to use.
- To compare existing treatments to determine which is better.
- To study different ways to use standard (approved) treatments, so they will be more effective, easier to use, and/or decrease side effects.
- To learn how to best use the treatment in a different population, such as children, in whom the treatment was not previously tested.

### What are some of the possible benefits of my participation?

- Gain access to potentially new research treatments.
- Receive expert medical care for the condition being studied, since investigators are often specialists in the disease area being studied.
- Help others by contributing to medical research and treatment advances.

### What are some of the possible risks of my participation?

- There may be unpleasant, serious, or even life-threatening side effects resulting from the treatment.
- The treatment may not be effective.
- Participation in the trial may be demanding and time consuming.

**For answers to additional questions, visit our web site at [www.MedHero.org](http://www.MedHero.org) or call 1-877 MED HERO.**



**CISCRP – helping you to make an informed choice.**