



Cancer Clinical Trials

What You Need to Know



What is a clinical trial?

A cancer clinical trial is a special type of research study that helps doctors find better ways to treat cancer. In these trials, doctors test new medicines or treatments to see if they work better than the ones already being used. People who join a cancer clinical trial might get a new treatment, and the doctors will carefully watch how well it works and if there are any side effects. The goal is to help find the best and safest ways to fight cancer.

What are the different types of clinical trials?

- **Treatment Trials:** These trials test new treatments, like medicines or special ways to treat cancer, to see if they work better than the ones already in use.
- **Prevention Trials:** These look at ways to stop people from getting cancer. They might test new medicines, vitamins, or changes in lifestyle to see if they lower the chances of cancer.
- **Screening Trials:** These trials test new ways to find cancer early, before it spreads. They might look at new tests or checkups to see which ones are best.
- **Quality of Life Trials:** These focus on improving how people feel during and after treatment. They study ways to reduce side effects and make life better for people with cancer.
- **Diagnostic Trials:** These trials test new ways to identify or diagnose a disease, often trying to find the cancer sooner or in a more accurate way.

Cancer clinical trials are important because they help doctors find better ways to treat and prevent cancer. They test new medicines and treatments to see if they work better than the ones we already have. Without these trials, we wouldn't know which treatments are safest or most effective.

What is a Clinical Trial Navigator?

Clinical Trial Navigators are individuals who assist patients with practical things, like finding resources for money, transportation, or housing, if needed. They help patients understand their treatment options and connect them to support groups. Their job is to ensure patients and their families have the help they need during their cancer journey. **Call 414-955-4420 for more information and assistance.**

Participating in a cancer clinical trial has both risks and benefits. Here's what you need to know:

Benefits

- **Access to New Treatments:** You may get to try a new treatment before it's available to everyone.
- **Better Care:** You'll be closely watched by doctors and scientists during the trial.
- **Helping Others:** By joining a trial, you're helping doctors learn more about cancer, which can help others in the future.

Risks

- **Side Effects:** The new treatment might have side effects, some of which doctors may not know about yet.
- **It Might Not Work:** The new treatment may not work as well as expected or may not be better than the current treatment.
- **More Time and Tests:** You might have to spend more time at the hospital and get more tests than usual.

While clinical trials can help find better ways to treat cancer, it's important to know the possible risks, too.

Your rights in a clinical trial

In a clinical trial, you have important rights to keep you safe. Here are your main rights:

- **You Can Say Yes or No:** You can choose to join the trial or not. No one can force you to join.
- **You Can Stop Anytime:** You can leave the trial whenever you want, even if you've already started.
- **You Must Be Informed:** Before you join, doctors must explain clearly—what will happen, the risks, and the benefits—so you understand.
- **Your Privacy Is Protected:** Your personal and medical information will be kept private and not shared without your permission.
- **You Get the Best Care Possible:** Even if you leave the trial, doctors will still take care of you and give you the best treatment available.

These rights are to make sure you stay safe and have control over your choices.

What questions should I ask before I decide to participate in a clinical trial?

- **What is the purpose of the trial?**
What are doctors trying to learn or test in this trial?
- **What treatments will I receive?**
Will I get the new treatment or the standard one?
- **What are the possible risks and side effects?**
What bad things could happen, and how likely are they?
- **What are the possible benefits?**
How might this trial help me or others?
- **How long will the trial last?**
How much time do I need to commit to the trial?
- **Will I have to pay for anything?**
Will the trial cost me money, or will it be free?
- **What kind of tests and checkups will I need?**
Will I need more doctor visits or medical tests than usual?
- **Can I leave the trial if I want to?**
What happens if I decide I don't want to be in the trial anymore?

These questions can help you understand what's involved in the trial so you can make the best decision for yourself.

READY TO LEARN MORE?

Use the QR code below or go to [Froedtert.com/cancer/research](https://www.froedtert.com/cancer/research) or call 414-805-8900.

