

# Questions to ask your doctor

It is important that you have a conversation with your doctor about your interest in participating in a clinical trial. Asking questions will help you make an informed choice about participating.



## How to start the conversation about cancer clinical trials with your doctor

- › Ask your doctor whether they think that there is a cancer clinical trial that could treat your type of cancer.
- › If you've researched a trial yourself, mention this to your doctor and ask them if they think it could be an option for you to go on this trial. Take all information you have about the trial so you can discuss it with your doctor.

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Once you've found a cancer clinical trial that your doctor agrees could benefit your cancer treatment, the doctor will need to refer you to the trial researchers for consideration. You would then need to speak with the trial researchers. This is where you get the opportunity to ask all your questions about the specific clinical trial.

## General clinical trial questions

- › How long does the study last? How long do I need to be involved if I participate?
- › What is the purpose of this clinical trial and why is it being done?
- › Who is running this trial?
- › How many other people will be involved?
- › How is the safety of participants being checked in this trial?
- › Can you go through the participant information with me?
- › Can I have the participant information in a different language?
- › Where will I receive my care if I join this clinical trial?
- › Is this clinical trial, or any parts of this clinical trial, being run as a teletrial?
- › Will the trial use a placebo?

## Specific questions to ask about your treatment while on the cancer clinical trial

How often will I need to visit the hospital or clinic if I join this trial?

- › Who will oversee my cancer care while I'm participating? Will I need to see a different doctor if I join this clinical trial?
- › What will I have to do while on this trial?
- › What types of therapies, procedures and/or tests would I expect to have if I choose to join this clinical trial?
- › How are these different to what I would have if I didn't join the trial? Are there any extra tests involved?
- › What are the possible benefits of joining this clinical trial?
- › What are the possible risks of joining this clinical trial?
- › Will I experience any side effects? How will they be treated?
- › Can I still have other medicines or complementary therapies?
- › Will my day-to-day life be affected? Will I need to take time off work?
- › Will I be able to talk to other people who are participating in this clinical trial?
- › Is participating in this clinical trial free, including all tests, treatment and travel costs?
- › Can I be paid back for any out-of-pocket expenses?
- › Can I still participate if I need to travel interstate or overseas?
- › If I join this clinical trial, will I miss out on other treatment opportunities?
- › How much time do I have to think about whether to join this trial? If I take time to decide, will delaying the treatment affect how well it works?

## After the clinical trial

- › What will happen with the research results? How will I be told about them?
- › Will I have follow-up care through the clinical trials team?
- › If I respond to the treatment, will I still be able to get access to it after the trial is over?

