

# ASK YOUR PHYSICIAN IF A CLINICAL TRIAL IS RIGHT FOR YOU

## WHAT IS A CLINICAL TRIAL?

A clinical trial is an investigation, in which a medication, treatment or device is given to research participants to learn about how well it works, its safety and its side effects. We learn more about new medications, treatments and devices and whether they improve health through carefully conducted clinical trials.

In Canada, clinical trials are conducted with oversight from Health Canada and a Research Ethics Board.

## WHY ARE CLINICAL TRIALS CONDUCTED?

- To see if a new medication, treatment or device is safe and effective for people to use.
- To compare two or more existing medications, treatments or devices to determine which is better.
- To study new ways to use standard (approved) medications, treatments or devices.
- To learn how best to use medications, treatments or devices in patients with different conditions.

## HOW DOES A PATIENT FIND OUT IF THERE IS A TRIAL FOR THEM?

Here at the Windsor Regional Hospital Cancer Program, we have a Clinical Trials department which helps your oncologist identify any clinical trials that might be right for you. If we have a clinical trial available for you that is open here, your oncologist may discuss it with you. If you are willing to travel to another cancer centre to participate in a clinical trial, this may be an option which you should discuss with your oncologist. You can find out more using one of the websites below.

WRH CANCER PROGRAM CLINICAL TRIALS:

**[WRHCancerProgram.ca](http://WRHCancerProgram.ca)**

GENERAL CLINICAL TRIALS INFORMATION:

**[ItStartsWithMe.ca](http://ItStartsWithMe.ca)**

CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS INFORMATION:

**[OntarioCancerTrials.ca](http://OntarioCancerTrials.ca)**

# PARTICIPATING IN A CLINICAL TRIAL

## WHY DO PATIENTS WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

- You may gain access to new medications, treatments or devices, which may be beneficial to your health.
- You may receive care specific to the clinical trial, which may include additional testing and/or more frequent follow up with medical staff for the condition being studied.
- You will help others by contributing to medical research and treatment advances.
- You may have the opportunity to gain additional knowledge about your own medical condition.

## CONSIDER BEFORE YOU PARTICIPATE

Some questions to consider asking before participating in a clinical trial:

- What are the potential risks of participating in this clinical trial?
- What are the possible benefits of participating in this clinical trial?
- What will I be asked to do as a research participant?
- How much of my time will the clinical trial take?
- Will I have to pay for any part of my participation in the clinical trial?
- Will I be paid for my participation?
- Will I be able to continue to see my own doctor?
- Will my doctor be informed of my involvement in a clinical trial?
- If the treatment works for me, can I keep using it after the clinical trial?
- What will be the cost of continued usage after the clinical trial?
- Will I receive any follow-up care after the clinical trial has ended?
- What will happen to my medical care if I stop participating in the clinical trial?
- Will I receive any additional information as a result of my participation in the clinical trial?

## WHAT TO BE AWARE OF?

- There may be side effects from the new medication, treatment or device. These may be minor, unpleasant, serious or even life threatening.
- The new medication, treatment or device may not be effective.
- You may be required to stop using your current medication, treatment or device.
- You may be required to try an experimental medication, treatment or device during the clinical trial.
- Participation in the clinical trial may require more visits and tests and may be time consuming.
- You may be interested in a clinical trial, but for various reasons may not be eligible to participate.

## YOUR RIGHTS AS A RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

*You have the right to decide if you wish to take part in the clinical trial - it is up to you. You have the right to refuse at any time without any negative consequences to the medical care or other services to which you are entitled or are presently receiving.*

*You have the right to privacy - any information about you or your health collected as part of the clinical trial will be kept confidential and protected. Your rights to privacy are legally protected by federal and provincial laws.*

**Make sure all of your questions are answered to your satisfaction before participating.**