

Thinking About Participating in Clinical Research?

Questions to Ask Your Doctor

Before participating in a clinical research study or trial, make sure you know as much as possible about the study. Discuss these questions with your pulmonary hypertension care team to help you decide whether the clinical trial is right for you.

Purpose

- Why are researchers conducting this clinical trial?
- Where is this trial in the drug-development process? What does this stage entail?
- Who is sponsoring and funding this study?
- Why do researchers believe this new treatment might be effective?
- Has this treatment been tested before?
- Have there been other trials like this one? If yes, what were the results?
- What kinds of patients will be in the trial?
- How many patients are needed?
- How long will the trial take?
- If the trial is successful, what will the results show?
- Will I be able to find out about the results of the clinical trial?
- What have researchers learned about the treatment tested in the study? Have any clinical results been published?
- Where can I find out more about this clinical trial?

Eligibility

- Why is this clinical trial a good fit for me?
- What other treatment options do I have?
- Will my treatment and care change if I join this study? If yes, how?
- How will the test(s) in this trial compare to the test(s) I would have had as part of my routine care?
- Are there other clinical trials that might be a good fit for me?

Potential risks and benefits

- How could this trial help me?
- What are potential short-term and long-term side effects of this treatment?
- How do the possible risks and benefits of this clinical trial compare with my standard of care? How do they compare with other potential experimental treatment options?

- Who has reviewed and approved this study for protecting participants rights and safety?
- What steps will be taken to monitor my safety?
- How will I know if the treatment is working?
- If the treatment works for me, can I keep using it after the trial ends?

Practical concerns

- What will I have to do if I join this trial?
- Will I need to come to the hospital or clinic for specific tests or treatments? Is yes, how often?
- How will this study affect my daily life?
- Where will I receive my medical care?
- Who will manage my care? Will I be able to see my own PH care team?
- Can anyone find out about my participation?
- Can I talk to other people who are participating?
- Will I receive any follow-up care after the study has ended?
- Do the researchers/clinicians have financial or special interests in this trial?
- Whom do I contact if I have questions during the trial?

Financial concerns

- Will I have to pay for any part of the treatment during the study?
- If yes, what will the charges likely be?
- Will there be travel or childcare costs that I will need to consider while participating?
- Will my health insurance cover any expenses from participating in this trial?
- Who can help answer questions from my insurance company?