



Should I Participate in a Clinical Trial?

A decision aid for older adults

This pamphlet contains factors to consider when deciding to participate in a clinical trial.

Key Questions

You can ask your provider for a copy of the informed consent form. The informed consent form is required to include potential risks and benefits of participating in the research clinical trial. You may want to discuss these additional questions:

- Have I discussed the risks and benefits with my primary care provider?
- Will participation affect the use of any of my medications?
- Do I need a consult with a pharmacist?
- Do I fully understand the research process?
- Do I understand my potential benefit or gain to participating?
- Are blood or tissue samples required?
- Do I fully understand the risks of participation?

- If the clinical trial is randomized, am I prepared to accept that I may be in the placebo group?
- Does participation exclude me from choosing other treatment options?
- Do I have physical limitations that cannot be accommodated?
- Do I know who to contact on the study team?
- Will I know the results of the study?

Other Factors To Consider

- Does this project align with my personal values?
- Who is funding the project? Do I have conflicts with the funder?
- Were patients like me involved in the design of the research project?
- Can I record the sessions, or bring someone with me to the visits?
- What personal data will I need to provide?
- Who else will potentially see my data?
- Am I comfortable with the confidentiality agreement in the consent form?
- What is my motivation for participating?
- Will I be compensated? What personal data is required to be compensated? Will I have to pay taxes on it? Is a W-9 required?

Travel and Timing

- How many trips will I need to make to the location?
- How long (months) is the study duration?
- What time of day are the visits?
- How long will each visit take?
- Is there adequate parking? Fees?
- Can I obtain a ride for each visit?
- Is there flexibility if my ride is delayed?

Accessibility



Are the accommodations adequate for easy access?



Will I have assistance for mobility?



Are there assistive hearing devices?



Are there visual assists?

Hidden Costs

- Will I need to purchase food during the visit?
- Is a special diet required?

Insurance and Medical Costs

- Will participation affect my insurance?
- Are there costs not covered by insurance (e.g., in case of injury or extra visits to my clinic)?

- If the research reveals I have a medical condition, do I have resources to obtain care?

Comprehension

- Do I want to ask someone to help me make the decision to participate?

Use this space for any thoughts or questions about participating.

Resources

National Institute on Aging: Benefits, Risks for Older Adults <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/clinical-trials-benefits-risks-and-safety>

Multidisciplinary center on Aging

<https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/center-on-aging>

<https://researchstudies.cuanschutz.edu/>

<https://www.researchmatch.org/about/>

<https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/what-are-clinical-trials-and-studies>

https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/sites/default/files/questions_full_list_v5-remediated_12222016.pdf

This document was prepared by Older Adult Research Specialists (OARS). 2022.