

St. Alexius Medical Center



Should I Volunteer?



Clinical Research Services



What are the Potential Risks of Participating in a Clinical Study

While there is much to be gained by participating in a study, there are some potential risks as well:

- Side effects from the medication may occur.
- In some studies, you may receive a placebo, which contains no actual medication.
- There are no guarantees that this treatment will work.

You should carefully consider both the benefits and the risks of participation before enrolling in a study.

What is a Clinical Study?

A clinical study is carefully designed to test the effects of a medication, medical treatment or device on a group of volunteers. Clinical studies are an important step in making new medications available. They measure the drug's ability to treat a condition, its safety and its possible side effects.

How is a Drug Approved for Testing?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) typically must authorize a drug company's proposal to conduct clinical studies. Drug companies must do years of laboratory research before they can begin testing medicines in humans.

Who can be in a Clinical Study?

People with the condition being studied as well as healthy people can volunteer to participate in a study. The FDA has very strict requirements that specify which studies involve healthy volunteers and which studies involve patients with the condition being studied.

Every study has specific requirements such as age, sex, or medical condition for participants. The physician conducting the study will review each volunteer's medical history and the study requirements to determine who can participate. Known risks and discomforts will be explained by the study physician prior to participating in the study. In addition to the known risks, there may be unknown risks such as medication side effects involved with participating in a clinical study. Study procedures, risks, and benefits are explained to volunteers during the informed consent process

What are the Benefits of Participating in a Clinical Research Study?

Each study is different, but benefits of participation may include any of the following:

- Access to medication, medical care from specialists who know your condition, and laboratory services at no cost.
- An opportunity to receive a medical treatment that is not widely available.
- Knowledge that you are helping to advance medical science.

What is Informed Consent?

Informed consent is the process designed to give volunteers the information that they need to decide about participating in a clinical study. This process allows the volunteer to ask questions and to exchange information freely with the clinical investigator. The clinical investigator is responsible for ensuring that informed consent is obtained from each research volunteer before that person participates in the research study.

How Can I Become a Study Volunteer?

Clinical Research Services at St. Alexius is often looking for study volunteers. For more information on clinical studies and how to become a study volunteer call (701) 530-6950 or toll free at (877) 701-6677.

Every day, research uncovers new information about medical conditions and possible therapies. Your involvement in clinical studies could help in the development of new medications. You and many other people may benefit from your willingness to become involved.

*“Advancing the Future of
Medicine Through Research.”*

What is our Mission?

The mission of Clinical Research Services is to advance the future of medicine by providing research opportunities for participants, physicians, our community and sponsor organizations. Our comprehensive clinical expertise, innovative approach and high quality are demonstrated by fostering relationships through integrity, teamwork and excellent customer service.



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