

# Participants and Research Studies

## Questions You Should Consider Asking The Research Team

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A lot of information is provided to you when asked to enroll into in a research study, however you may have additional questions and concerns. Below is a list of possible questions you might want to consider asking your research team. Remember that you should ask questions until you are comfortable with the answers and information they provided.

### Possible Risks and Benefits

1. Why is the study being done?
2. Why do researchers think the approach may be effective?
3. Who is paying for and supporting the study?
4. Who has reviewed and approved the study?
5. How are study results and safety of participants being checked?
6. How long will the study last?
7. What will our responsibilities be if we participate?

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### Possible Risks and Benefits

1. What are the possible benefits?
2. What are the short-term risks, such as side effects?
3. What are the possible long-term risks?
4. What other options do people with similar conditions have?
5. How do the possible risks and benefits of this study compare with other options?

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### Participation and Care

1. What kinds of therapies, procedures or tests will participants have during the research study?
2. Will they hurt, and if so, for how long?
3. How do the tests in the study compare with those participants would have outside of the research study?
4. Will participants be able to take his or her regular medications while in the research study?
5. Where will participants have his or her medical care?
6. Who will be in charge of the participants care?

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## **Personal Issues**

1. How could being in this study affect the daily life of the participants and their families?
2. Can participants talk to other people in the study?

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## **Cost Issues**

1. Will participants have to pay for any part of the study such as tests or a study drug?
2. If so, what will the charges likely be?
3. If participants have health insurance, what is it likely to cover?
4. Who can help answer any questions from participants insurance company or health plan?
5. Will there be any travel involved?

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## **Tips for asking your doctor about Research Studies**

When participants talk with their doctor or members of the research team:

1. Participants should consider taking a family member or friend along, for support and for help in asking questions or recording answers.
2. Participants should plan ahead what to ask – but don't hesitate to ask any new questions you think of while you're there.
3. Participants should write down their questions in advance, to make sure they remember to ask them all.
4. Participants should write down the answers, so that they can review them whenever they want.
5. Participants should write down the name and contact information of the study's coordinator or person in charge.

