

# Clinical Trials

Patient Education Resource Center (PERC)  
Information Guide



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## Brochures & Fact Sheets

- CancerCare
  - **Clinical Trials: Improving the Care of People Living With Cancer.**
  - **Don't be Afraid of Clinical Trials: They Could Improve the Quality of Your Care.**

Printable versions are available at: <http://www.cancercare.org/>

- National Cancer Institute.
  - Introduction to Clinical Trials Fact Sheets
    - **Cancer Clinical Trials**
    - **How do I Take Part in a Clinical Trial?**
    - **How is a Clinical Trial Planned and Carried Out?**
    - **How to Find a Cancer Treatment Trial: A 10-Step Guide**
    - **Participating in a Trial: Questions to Ask Your Doctor**
    - **Should I Take Part in a Clinical Trial?**
    - **What is a Clinical Trial?**

Printable versions of these fact sheets are available at:

<http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/learning/>

- **Taking Part in Cancer Treatment Research Studies.**

A printable version of this brochure is available at:

<http://www.cancer.gov/>

## Books

- Speid, Lorna. **Clinical Trials: What Patients and Healthy Volunteers Need to Know.** New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

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The purpose of this information guide is to direct patients and health care professionals to sources of information on cancer and related topics, it does not constitute an endorsement of the information contained in the resources. This list is not meant to be comprehensive, but rather to provide starting points for Information seeking.

All listed materials can be found at the Patient Education Resource Center of the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center in room B1-361. An online version of this document can be found at:  
[http://www.cancer.med.umich.edu/support/information\\_guides.shtml](http://www.cancer.med.umich.edu/support/information_guides.shtml)

## Audiovisual Resources

- National Cancer Institute. **Understanding Clinical Trials**. 2007. 17 min. DVD.

This DVD talks about types of clinical trials, how they are conducted, and what to think about if you consider participating in a trial.

- **An interactive tutorial on MedlinePlus.gov – Clinical Trials**

→ Access at: <http://www.medlineplus.gov/>

→ Click on “Videos & Cool Tools”

→ Click on “Interactive Tutorials”

→ Under the heading “Surgery and Treatment Procedures,” select “Clinical Trials”

A slide show with voice-over and graphics explains the process and structure of clinical trials. It covers informed consent, protections for participants and how to locate clinical trials. It is possible to turn on a voice over or print a text version.

## Web Resources

- **National Cancer Institute – Section on Clinical Trials**

<http://www.cancer.gov/ClinicalTrials/>

Part of cancer.gov, a service of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), this site provides explanations of the phase structure of clinical trials, the rights of participants, costs, and informed consent.

- To find trials, access the search form at:

<http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/search/>

- A step-by-step guide for searching the NCI’s clinical trials database is available by clicking on the link “Help with This Form” at the top of the search forms.

*Another way to search the same database:*

- **ClinicalTrials.gov** <http://clinicaltrials.gov/>

This National Library of Medicine site searches all of the National Institute of Health trials, including the National Cancer Institute database which is also searchable through cancer.gov as described before. The ClinicalTrials.gov search form may be better sometimes because it enables searching by keyword. This feature makes it possible to get more relevant hits when searching ClinicalTrials.gov rather than cancer.gov. Click on “Search for Clinical Trials: to begin searching. Click on “Background Information,” then “Understanding Clinical Trials” to see answers to frequently asked questions.

- **American Cancer Society Clinical Trials**

- Access at: <http://www.cancer.org/Treatment/TreatmentsandSideEffects/ClinicalTrials/index>
- Click on: "Find Support" and "Clinical Trials" and "More"
- Click on: "Treatment Side Effects"
- Next to "Clinical Trials" and "More"

Learn about clinical trials and the information to help you decide if a clinical trial is right for you. This site includes information on the American Cancer Society's Clinical Trials Matching Service, which is a free program to help cancer patients find clinical trials that they may be eligible for.

- **Coalition of Cancer Cooperative Groups**

Access at: <http://www.cancertrialshelp.org/>

The Coalition of Cancer Cooperative Groups site covers myths about clinical trials, informed consent, insurance considerations and questions to ask the doctor. The search form includes nine simple questions. The site also includes the full text of the coalition's brochures and fact sheets, frequently asked questions and a glossary.

## Locating Clinical Trials at the University of Michigan

- **Engage – the University of Michigan Clinical Trials database**  
<http://www.med.umich.edu/engage/>

The gateway to research studies at the University of Michigan Health System includes cancer clinical trials. Search by condition or use the search form to search by keyword and other categories.

This document is not intended to take the place of the care and attention of your personal physician or other professional medical services. Our aim is to promote active participation in your care and treatment by providing information and education. Questions about individual health concerns or specific treatment options should be discussed with your physician.

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