



RISKS AND BENEFITS OF CLINICAL TRIALS

Fact Sheet 004

Benefits



The benefits of participating in a clinical trial are:

- * That you may be able to access to new treatments that are not yet available in standard clinical practice.
- * You'll be monitored more closely and regularly than you would in standard care.
- * You will help generate information that will improve our understanding of the disease and improve our ability to treat the disease so that we can have better options to offer patients in the future. This means that there is a benefit to patient themselves as well as a greater benefit to the community.

Clinical trials and standard treatment

You will never miss out on receiving standard treatment in a clinical trial. Patients who participate in a clinical trial will usually be placed in one of two or more groups. The 'test group' will usually receive standard treatment for the disease or condition plus the new treatment being tested. The 'control group' will be given standard treatment only. If there is no standard treatment they will receive a placebo which is a substance that has no therapeutic effect but will look the same as the test treatment.

Patients may withdraw from a clinical trial at any time for any reason, and without prejudice to further treatment. Patients can also be withdrawn from a clinical trial by the researcher if they feel that the patient is not deriving clinical benefit or because of unacceptable side effects.

Patients who are withdrawn or are removed from the study will usually be followed-up to make sure there are no ongoing side effects.

Risks



The risks of participating in the clinical trial include:

- * That there may be side effects of the treatments that are being given as part of the clinical trial. That is why when patients are approached to enrol in a clinical trial, they will always be informed of the potential side effects of the experimental treatment.
- * There may be some travel to participate in the trial if the trial is not being conducted at a site near your home.
- * It is also important to remember that the treatment being given in a clinical trial may not work for you.



Next fact sheet in series: [How clinical trials are regulated](#)