Clinical Research

Center for Psychiatric Research

What is a clinical research study?

A clinical research study, also called a clinical trial, tests the safety, effectiveness and side effects of an investigational medicine(s) or an investigational device on a group of human volunteers or a new care protocol. Each trial follows a pre-defined plan, or protocol, that describes what types of patients may enter into the study, schedules of tests and procedures, drugs, dosages and length of study, as well as outcomes that are measured. When carefully conducted, clinical trials are the safest and fastest way to find new and improved treatments that might treat the condition being studied.

Why participate in a clinical trial?

Participants in clinical trials can play a more active role in their own healthcare, gain access to new breakthrough treatments before they are widely available and help others by contributing to medical research. Additionally, since investigators are often specialists in the disease being studied, participants also receive expert medical care for the specific condition.

Who can participate in a clinical trial?

Since people respond differently to medicines and other treatments, it is important to include all types of people in a clinical research study. All clinical trials have guidelines about who can participate. Using inclusion/exclusion criteria is an important principle of medical research that helps produce reliable results. These criteria are based on such factors as age, gender, the type and stage of a disease, previous and current treatment history and other medical conditions. A participant must qualify for the study before being consented for a clinical trial.

How is the safety of the participant protected?

The ethical and legal codes that govern medical practice also apply to clinical trials. In addition, most clinical research is federally regulated with built-in safeguards to protect the participants. At AMITA Health we take special care to protect our patients who decide to participate in clinical trials. Our Institutional Review Board look at all trials from a patient perspective to ensure safety and benefit.

To learn more about clinical research trials at AMITA Health
Contact Us @ **847.230.3599** or
PsychResearch@AMITAhealth.org

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating in a clinical trial?

Benefits:

- Gain access to new research treatments before they are widely available
- Help others by contributing to medical research
- Possible compensation for participation or reimbursement for costs such as travel.
- Participants have access, usually at no cost, to expert monitoring and medical care for trial-related conditions, as well as for some underlying conditions that might be detected

Risks:

- The treatment might not be effective for the participant
- There might be unpleasant, serious or even life-threatening side effects to investigational treatment
- Participation in the trial might be demanding and more time-consuming than conventional treatment.