

## Should I Participate in a Clinical Trial? What's in it for Me?

Clinical trials help scientists understand health and disease better. By volunteering for a clinical trial you may be helping your community, our society, and people in general.

Joining a clinical trial may not help you, but it could help your grandmother, your child, your neighbor, your friend, or someone you've never met.

You may receive no personal benefit from participating in a clinical trial. It is possible that, during a clinical trial, you will receive treatment that helps you. It is also possible that the treatment or activity you do during a clinical trial will not help you at all.

Before you volunteer for a clinical trial, find out about the benefits and risks of participating in the trial so that you have all the facts before making a decision. Ask questions. Find out:

- What is being studied?
- What is the purpose of the clinical trial?
- How long will the trial last?
- How many study visits will I have to attend?
- What kinds of tests or procedures will I have in the clinical trial (for example, will there be blood tests or physical examinations)?
- Will I be able to take my regular medicines while I am in the clinical trial?
- What are the possible risks and benefits of participating in the clinical trial? And
- How will the results of the clinical trial be shared with me?

When you have as much information as possible about a clinical trial, you'll feel more confident about the decision you make.

Before you sign up for a clinical trial, ask the people who are conducting the trial to answer all of your questions. And remember that you may stop participating in the clinical trial at any time, even after the study has started.