



What does it take to outsmart cancer? **Research...** and we can't do it without you.

## What are clinical trials?

**Clinical trials are research studies. The cancer treatments used today came from clinical trials.**

There are many different purposes for clinical trials:

- Some clinical trials evaluate new drugs.
- Others study new ways to give already approved drugs or new combinations of drugs.
- Some studies look at new combinations with other treatments such as surgery or radiation.
- Other studies may be about cancer prevention.
- Some studies may look at ways to diagnose cancer or ways to make life better for cancer patients.



**Carefully conducted clinical trials are the fastest and safest way to find treatments that work.**

**Participation in a clinical trial is 100% voluntary.**

This means you can withdraw from the study at any time if you or your medical team decide the clinical trial is no longer the best option for you.



## How do I participate in a clinical trial with Grand Valley Oncology?

**Each clinical trial has patients with a specific type and stage of cancer.**

**Participating in a clinical trial is your decision, however your doctor must first determine if you meet the requirements for the study you are interested in.**

In general, you must meet these requirements:

- The type and extent of your cancer has the same characteristics as the cancer being studied.
- A doctor has reviewed your general health, and it meets study requirements.
- We have answered all your questions about clinical trials.
- You understand the possible benefits and risks of participating.
- You agree to participate, and you have signed and submitted your informed consent form.

For more in-depth information, visit <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/treatment/clinical-trials>

# Clinical Trials

*Ask your doctor if a clinical trial is right for you.*

## What are the benefits and risks?

As with any treatment option, a clinical trial has possible benefits, as well as drawbacks. You may want to discuss the following issues with your doctor and the people close to you.

### Possible Benefits:

- Clinical trials offer high-quality cancer care. If you are in a randomized study and do not receive the new treatment being tested, you will receive the best known standard treatment. This may be as good as, or better than, the new approach.
- If a new treatment is proven to work and you are receiving it, you may be among the first to benefit.
- You have the chance to help others and improve cancer treatment.

### Possible Drawbacks:

- New treatments under study are not always better than, or even as good as, standard care.
- New treatments may have side effects that doctors do not expect or that are worse than those of standard treatment.
- Even if a new treatment has benefits, it may not work for you. Even standard treatments, proven effective for many people, do not help everyone.
- Health insurance and managed care providers may not cover all patient care costs in a study.

If you would like to learn more, please contact the Grand Valley Oncology Clinical Trial Team:  
**(970) 644-4460 or**  
**gvoclinicaltrials@gjhosp.org**

## Clinical Trial Phases

### PHASE I :

### PHASE II :

### PHASE III :

- Tests drug for the first time in humans
- Shows how much of the new drug is safe and how often doctors should give it
- Shows what side effects we can expect
- Includes a small number of patients

### PHASE I :

### PHASE II :

### PHASE III :

- Builds on data collected in Phase I
- Tests how well a drug works on a specific kind and stage of cancer
- Includes a small number of patients

### PHASE I :

### PHASE II :

### PHASE III :

- Tests drugs thought to be effective in Phase II
- Compares new and standard treatments
- Often requires us to randomly assign patients to get the new or standard treatments
- Can include hundreds or thousands of patients

*Grand Valley Oncology offers mostly Phase III studies and some Phase II studies.*



**If Grand Valley Oncology does not offer a clinical trial you are interested in, the clinical trials team can assist in referring you to other facilities that do offer the trial.**