

One of the missions of the University is to advance knowledge through research.

The goal of medical research is to contribute to health improvements and medical treatments for patients in the future.



What is medical research?

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Medical research may involve:

- ♦ Looking for new treatments by testing them on volunteers
- ♦ Interviewing people about their health and their illnesses
- ♦ Testing specimens of blood or tissue
- ♦ Looking at medical records
- ♦ Understanding how the healthy body works

Patients of UNC Hospitals or UNC HealthCare may be invited to take part in medical research studies. This brochure will help you decide if being in a research study is right for you or your family member.

Why volunteer?

Research subjects help scientists get information that may improve future treatments.

If you volunteer, you may:

- ♦ Help researchers find out more about how the human body and mind work
- ♦ Help other people who are sick
- ♦ Help find safer or better treatments
- ♦ Help find ways to improve medical care

How is research different from treatment?

Being in research is not the same as getting treatment from your personal physician.

Most medical research studies are designed to:

- ♦ Test if a medication or treatment is safe or not
- ♦ Test if a medication or treatment works or not

This means that the experimental treatments in a research study could be safe or harmful, and that they could work or fail. Finding this out is the reason for doing research. No one can know for sure how the research study will affect you or your medical condition.

Remember, you can always say no. You should not decide to be in a research study just because your doctor told you about it. Saying no won't hurt your relationship with your doctors or affect your health care at UNC-Chapel Hill.



How will you choose?

If you are asked to be in a study, you will:

- ♦ Be given a consent form with information about the research study
- ♦ Discuss the study with a researcher
- ♦ Have the chance to ask questions

Take time to think about your choice. You may want to:

- ♦ Talk with a trusted advisor (relative, friend, nurse, or doctor)
- ♦ Bring someone with you to talk about the research study
- ♦ Take the consent form home with you before you decide

Questions to think about

Here are some things for you to think about before you decide. You should always feel free to ask questions. Every study is different.

- ♦ Who is doing the study?
- ♦ What is the study about?
- ♦ Will the study help in understanding my condition? If so, how?
- ♦ What will be done to me in the study?
- ♦ Will I get an experimental drug or an experimental treatment?
- ♦ Is there a chance I could get a fake treatment (placebo) or no treatment?
- ♦ Will there be extra tests or appointments?
- ♦ What are the possible bad things (risks) that could happen to me in the study?
- ♦ Are there any possible good things (benefits) that could happen to me?
- ♦ Could my condition get better in the study?
- ♦ Could my condition get worse in the study?
- ♦ Who will be my study doctor?
- ♦ How long will I be in the study?
- ♦ How will my privacy be protected?
- ♦ Can I stop being in the study if I change my mind?
- ♦ Will it cost me anything or will I be paid anything to be in the study?
- ♦ Will my insurance be charged?

Your role in medical research is valued at UNC-Chapel Hill.

All research on human volunteers is reviewed by a committee that works to protect your rights and welfare.

If you would like more information about your rights as a research subject, please contact:

Office of Human Research Ethics
<http://www.ohre.unc.edu/public.php>
919-966-3113

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Should you volunteer?

Participating in medical research at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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