

Study Participant FAQ

What happens in a study?

Researchers develop a protocol that outlines who may participate, what tests, procedures or medications they will get, and how long the study will last. Researchers check participants' health, give instructions at the onset and carefully monitor participants during the study.

Who can participate?

Volunteers must meet certain criteria based on factors such as age, gender and health status. Participation in a research study is voluntary. You may withdraw from the study at any time.

Why should I enter a cardiovascular clinical study?

You can take a more active role in your health care, gain early access to new drugs and treatments, obtain expert medical care and help others by contributing to medical research.

What are the benefits of participating in a cardiovascular research study?

Benefits vary by research study. Most commonly, it is not known if a procedure or drug may be beneficial. However, the information gained from the study will help answer this question. By participating in a clinical research study you're making a significant contribution to finding new and better ways to treat you and people with your condition. Clinical studies are crucial to the advancement of medical treatments.

What are the risks?

Side effects may be unpleasant, serious or even endanger your life. Some may be unexpected or appear after treatment ends. The treatment may not work or you may be in a placebo group that gets no treatment.

How will I be protected?

The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services provides these guidelines: Before you decide to participate, you will learn the key facts about a study through a process called informed consent. Then you sign an informed consent document. The informed consent is not a contract – you can leave the study at any time, for any reason. Throughout the study you will be provided with additional information. Also, independent review boards approve and monitor all studies to make sure the risks are as low as possible, the study is ethical and participants' rights are protected.

What will it cost me to participate in a research study?

Research studies are usually funded by private industry or through grants that cover the costs of the tests associated with the study. Generally, testing and services performed that would not have been performed but for your participation in the study will be provided at no cost.

What will be asked of me if I chose to participate in a research study?

Participation varies by research study. However, for every study you will be required to sign a consent form which states you understand what is being asked of you. It is very important that you be available for all scheduled visits and do your very best to comply with the requirements of the study. Before leaving the study, we ask that you discuss this option with a member of the research team.