

Taking part in a research study ...Is it for me?

Patient Information

Research Service

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Introduction

Research is a key part of the work of the NHS. The NHS seeks to inform patients about research studies in which they may be eligible to take part. Doctors use clinical research studies to compare current treatments to potentially better ones, so that they can continue to improve the care that is given to NHS patients.

Clinical studies compare the results of possible treatments to see which will give the best symptom relief or even a cure. Some research studies do not involve trying new medication but gather information through questionnaires to help to understand how conditions impact on people's lives.

Within Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust we have numerous ongoing research projects across all our service areas. Many of these studies are carried out in partnership with local universities and NHS Trusts.

Our Research Team

A team of people work together to ensure that each research study is run safely and to a high standard. The team may include research nurses, doctors, pharmacists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and scientists. Some studies are led by commercial companies working closely with the research team.

How to get involved

It's OK to ask about clinical research. In many cases you may be told about studies when you visit the clinic. However, we also need patients to ask about research and to keep it at the top of the NHS agenda.

Please feel free to ask for more information about studies being carried out within our Trust and whether you might be eligible to take part.

Participation in research is voluntary

Participation in research is always voluntary and patients are free to withdraw from research studies at any time without prejudicing their future treatment. All information is anonymised, stored securely, treated in strictest confidence and is not passed on to anyone outside the research team.

Are you always able to take part in a study?

All research studies are designed with guidelines to decide who will be eligible to take part. This could involve taking a detailed medical history and sometimes additional tests such as blood tests, x-rays or scans to decide if you are suitable for the study.

Informed consent

Before taking part in any study you will have a discussion with a member of the study team who will explain everything that will happen during the study. You will be given time to consider the information before being asked to sign a consent form. This consent form will ask for:

- confirmation that you have read and understood the information that was given
- confirmation that you are aware of potential risks and benefits of taking part in the study
- your permission for your information to be included in the study
- your permission for the study team to access your medical records

Potential benefits of taking part in a clinical trial

Some potential benefits of taking part in a clinical trial include:

- Any clinical trials using medications are very closely monitored.
- Your general health and well-being is constantly checked potentially more often than with 'usual care'.
- You have a team of research nurses who will look after you.
- Sometimes the medication is very new and is not yet available on the NHS.

Further considerations

When taking part in a medication study you are receiving special treatment but you have your part to play. You will be expected to attend the hospital when required and to follow all instructions. You could be asked to report any other illnesses, to fast for blood tests and report any adverse effects of the treatment. Before any appointments, it is a good idea to make a list of any questions that you have so that these can be answered in a timely manner.

Our patients' experience

"A place on a drugs trial was a chance to receive in a safe way a medication otherwise unavailable. Before any treatment all was fully explained and I was given time to consider if I would like to take part. I knew that I could always stop the treatment at any time if I decided to do. When I agreed to treatment I was given a lot of information to read. Do not worry if you struggle to read or fully understand this. Just ask the trials nurse about any concerns that you have or do not understand and they will explain in plain English so that all is made clear to you."

"Taking part in a clinical trial enabled me to try more effective medication whilst being very closely monitored across a broad range of measurements. This gave me confidence in the treatment and also reassurance about my general health".

Further information on taking part in a research study please contact Research and Development Department
Tel: 01257 488229
E-mail: ResearchAdmin@wwl.nhs.uk

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Please use this space to write notes or reminders.

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
Wigan WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



https://www.wrightingtonhospital.org.uk/media/downloads/sdm_information_leaflet.pdf

How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use and store the information we hold about you, please take a look at our “how we use your information” leaflet which can be found on the Trust website: wwl.nhs.uk

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille and other languages upon request. For more information please ask in the department/ward.

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