What Do I Need To Know Before Being In a Research Study?

You have been invited to be in a research study. Research studies are also called “clinical trials” or “protocols.” Research is an organized plan designed to get new knowledge about a disease or the normal function of the body. The people who are in the research are called research subjects. The investigator is the person who is running the research study. You will get information from the investigator and the research team, and then you will be asked to give your consent to be in the research.

This sheet will help you think of questions to ask the investigator or his/her staff. You should know all these answers before you decide about being in the research.

What is the purpose of the research? Why is the investigator doing the research?

What are the risks of the research? What bad things could happen?

What are the possible benefits of the research? How might this help me?

How is this research different than the care or treatment I would get if I wasn’t in the research? Are there other treatments I could get?

Does everyone in this research study get the same treatment?

Will being in the research cost me anything extra?

Do I have to be in this research study? Will the doctor still take care of me if I say no?

Can I stop being in the research once I've started? How?

Who will look at my records?

How do I reach the investigator if I have more questions?

Who do I call if I have questions about being a research subject?

Make sure all your questions are answered before you decide whether or not to be in this research.