



What is Clinical Research and Why is it Important?

Clinical research is medical research that includes people. Clinical research aims to find new and better ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases in children and adolescents. The research you participate in may not provide a direct benefit to you or your child, but it may help doctors and scientists to better understand your child's condition and develop new treatments for the future.

In the past, clinical research has not always been conducted in a fair and just manner. As a result, there are federal guidelines and regulations that have been put into place to ensure protection of all people who participate in clinical research. With your help, our goal is to ensure that individuals from diverse backgrounds are included in clinical research to limit health disparities, improve outcomes, and increase access to care.

What Are the Different Types of Clinical Research?



Chart Review: In this type of research, you may be asked to complete questionnaires to give the doctors more info about yourself or you may not be asked to do anything at all! Sometimes researchers just want to look at your medical records. Looking at medical record information from a large number of patients may help researchers to understand illnesses or diseases or to identify better and faster ways to diagnose certain conditions.



Observational: Some research studies may want to observe you completing a task or procedure, or may ask you to provide specimens such as blood, urine, or saliva. If you have a medical condition, researchers may use your test results to compare with others who don't have the condition (called healthy controls), or you could be asked to be a healthy control. As a healthy control, you may also be asked to provide specimens. This helps scientists understand the differences between people who have certain medical conditions and those who don't.



Clinical Trials: Clinical trials test new drugs or other procedures that might work better for diseases or illnesses than what is currently used. You may be asked to take a new drug, complete other types of tests or procedures, answer questionnaires, have blood drawn, and see the researcher on a regular basis. Clinical trials may be conducted in just one hospital but may also be multi-center with other hospitals across the US or even around the world.

Why Participate in Clinical Research?

- To help yourself or others who may have or be at risk for certain medical conditions.
- To understand the natural history and course of disease throughout your child's lifespan.
- To be able to test a new treatment, like a drug, that may work better than what is currently available.
- To have the opportunity to get medical care that may not be available to you otherwise.
- To be part of a breakthrough to improve health in children!

To learn more about our current research opportunities, please contact: PulmonaryResearch@email.chop.edu