Research discoveries can improve people's health.

Before you decide to become a research volunteer, get the facts:

- Know what you're getting into.
- Ask questions.
- Learn as much as you can.
- Know the pros and cons.

It's Your Decision

For more information call:

Office for Human Research Protections

Toll-Free (866) 447-4777

1101 Wootton Parkway
Suite 200
Rockville, MD 20852
www.hhs.gov/ohrp
Fax: (301) 402-0527
E-mail: ohrp@osophs.dhhs.gov

This space reserved for your institution's contact information.

OHRP

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Office of the Secretary
Office of Public Health & Science
Office for Human Research Protections

Becoming a Research Volunteer:

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Becoming a Research Volunteer: It's *Your* Decision

Someday, you or a family member may want to take part in a research study. If this happens, the information here may help you make the right decision.

What Is Research?

- Research is a study that is done to answer a question.
- Scientists do research because they don't know for sure what works best to help you.
- Some other words that describe research are clinical trial, protocol, survey, or experiment.
- Research is not the same as treatment.

Why Is Research Important?

Research has led to important discoveries that make our lives better. Some examples are:

- New drugs to treat cancer, diabetes, and other diseases
- Ultrasound, X-ray machines, and diagnostic tests
- Vaccines
- Ways to stop smoking
- Improved medical procedures

Questions to Ask

- What exactly will happen to me in the research?
- Will there be any unpleasant side effects?
- Will the research help me personally?
- What other options do I have?
- Can I leave the study at any time?
- Will it cost me anything personally?

Points to Consider

- A research study may or may not help you personally.
- In the future, the results could help others who have a health problem.
- Taking part in research is voluntary.