

Questions to Ask Your Healthcare Provider About Clinical Trials

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Asking your healthcare provider questions at any phase of your treatment will help you take an active role in managing your (or your child's) care. If you do not understand any part of the information your healthcare provider gives you, ask him or her to explain it in another way.

Doctor's name _____

Date of appointment or call _____

1. What are my (my child's) treatment options right now?
What is the goal of the treatment?

2. What are the benefits and risks of my (my child's) current (or standard) treatment?

3. How will I know if my (my child's) treatment is effective?

4. What are my (my child's) treatment options if the current treatment is not effective?

5. Could you suggest any clinical trials for which I (my child) might be eligible?

6. Are these clinical trials available where I am (my child is) being treated now, or would it be necessary to change treatment locations?

7. What is the purpose of the clinical trial that you would recommend and why do researchers think the approach may be effective?

8. How would the clinical trial treatment be different from the standard treatment?

9. What are the expected side effects of the clinical trial treatment versus the standard treatment?

10. What kind of testing to monitor my (my child's) disease and treatment would be needed as part of the clinical trial?

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11. How long will I (my child) be treated in the clinical trial?

12. If I (my child) enroll(s) in the trial, who will be in charge of my (my child's) blood cancer care?

13. Can I talk to other people (parents of other children) enrolled in the study?

14. How will I know if the clinical trial treatment is effective? Will the overall results of the clinical trial be provided to me?

15. Will I have responsibilities such as keeping a log or filling out forms about my (my child's) health?

16. Will the clinical trial team continue to check on me (my child) after the treatment is over? For what period of time?

17. How do I find out if my insurance will cover the costs of my (my child's) treatment or the clinical trial?

18. Who can help answer any medical questions my insurance company or health plan asks?

19. Will I have to pay for any part of the trial, such as tests or the clinical trial drug(s)?

20. Will there be any travel or child care costs that I need to consider while I am (my child is) in the trial?

21. If not now, under what circumstances would a clinical trial be an option for me (my child)?

To print additional copies of this question guide, or to print copies of question guides on other topics, go to www.lls.org/whattoask. You may also request that copies be sent to you by contacting an Information Specialist at (800) 955-4572.