

What are cancer clinical trials?

Cancer clinical trials are research studies that explore new ways to treat cancer and improve quality of life for patients. If you or a loved one is diagnosed with cancer, participation in clinical trials through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Oncology Program are a possible treatment option to consider. Without clinical trials, new treatments for cancer often wouldn't see the light of day. By participating in a clinical trial, you may not only help yourself, but Veterans diagnosed with cancer in the future.

Why participate in a clinical trial?



In many cases, clinical trials provide treatment. Clinical trials provide access to new and innovative treatments for previously untreatable diseases or cancers. By participating in clinical trials, Veterans not only receive a potentially more viable course of treatment, but they also help others by advancing the development of new therapies.

Clinical Trials Are:

- ✓ **Safe** – Clinical trials are continuously monitored at every level for risks to the patient
- ✓ **Cutting-Edge** – Clinical trials provide access to innovative cancer treatment approaches
- ✓ **Forward-Looking** – Participating in clinical trials helps ensure new treatments come to market

VETERAN SUCCESS STORY

When U.S. Army Veteran James Folsom was referred to a cancer clinical trial by his VA primary care physician, he had no symptoms and thought he was in perfect health. Before enrolling in a study, James' doctor diagnosed his stage 2 lung cancer. James was successfully treated by the study and is back to living life and riding his motorcycle.



Questions to Ask Your Doctor About Clinical Trials:

- What questions is this study trying to answer?
- How will this clinical trial benefit me?
- What risks are involved?
- How long will the clinical trial last?
- What will I be asked to do for this trial?
- Will I need to travel?

By participating in a cancer clinical trial, you will get access to new therapies and innovative treatments that will help you and your fellow Veterans. VA will be with you, shoulder to shoulder, in supporting you throughout your course of treatment. To learn more about cancer care at VA, visit cancer.va.gov, or contact cancer@va.gov.