



Clinical Trials

at the UW Carbone Cancer Center

What are clinical trials?

Clinical trials are research studies conducted to find better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer. Clinical trials involve people who volunteer to participate.

The UW Carbone Cancer Center typically has more than 250 clinical trials available for participation. Patients at UW Carbone are often among the first in the world to have access to promising new treatments through clinical trials.

If you participate in a clinical trial at UW Carbone, cancer researchers can more rapidly answer critical questions that will lead to better treatment and prevention options.

Why should you participate in a clinical trial at UW Carbone?

You can benefit from learning about all of your treatment options, which may include participating in a clinical trial.

There are several possible benefits to joining a clinical trial, including:

- Access to new treatments before they are available to others
- Receiving expert medical care at a leading healthcare facility
- Helping doctors learn more about cancer and contributing to the treatment and care of future cancer patients

Are clinical trials safe?

Clinical trials must follow strict federal rules and regulations to protect the safety of trial participants. There are risks to clinical trials, including extra tests or procedures, unexpected side effects and the fact that the new treatment may not be better than, or even as good as, the standard treatment. All known risks are discussed with potential participants before they enroll in a clinical trial.

Participating in a clinical trial is completely voluntary and you can stop participating at any time, for any reason. You will still receive the best care from UW no matter what you choose.

How do you know if you are eligible for a clinical trial?

Your doctor may recommend a trial or you may ask your doctor about available clinical trials.

Each clinical trial has guidelines about who can participate, including:

- Having a certain type or stage of cancer
- Having received (or not received) a certain kind of treatment in the past
- Being in a certain age group
- Medical history
- Current health status

What questions should you ask your doctor about participating in a clinical trial?

Before participating in a clinical trial, you should consider asking these questions:

- Why are you suggesting this clinical trial for me?
- What are the risks and benefits of this trial?
- What other treatment options are available?
- What are the possible short- and long-term side effects?
- What kinds of tests and procedures and/or medications will I need for the trial?
- Will my insurance cover my participation?

What are the costs of clinical trials?

There may be extra costs related to your participation in a clinical trial. A study coordinator will provide you with information about costs and assist with issues related to insurance coverage.

In Wisconsin, insurance companies are required to cover routine costs of clinical trials. You are encouraged to talk with your doctor and study coordinator before contacting your health insurance provider.

If you must travel for a clinical trial, you may be eligible for the reimbursement of certain expenses, such as lodging and food. Talk with your study team about financial resources available to you.

What types of trials are offered at UW Carbone?

UW Carbone offers a variety of trials for patients to participate in, including:

Treatment trials test new treatments. These include new cancer drugs, new approaches to surgery or radiation or other new methods of treatment.

Prevention trials test new approaches, such as medicines, vitamins, minerals or other supplements, which may lower the risk of a certain type of cancer.

Screening trials test the best way to find cancer, especially in its early stages.

Quality of life trials look at ways to improve comfort and quality of life for cancer patients and their caregivers.

Are clinical trials offered at other locations?

UW Carbone has partnerships with several hospitals and clinics throughout Wisconsin that allow patients in those communities to participate in clinical trials. Ask your doctor for more details.

Learn More

To learn more about clinical trials at UW Carbone:

- Contact Cancer Connect, our patient and physician resource at (800) 622-8922
- You may also contact our Clinical Trials Nurse Navigator at clinicaltrials@cancer.wisc.edu
- Visit our website, uwhealth.org/cancertrials

