

Thousands of people in Ireland are taking part in cancer trials. There may be one suitable for you.

**How can I find out more?**

**1. Ask**

Just Ask Your Doctor!

**2. Visit**

[www.cancertrials.ie](http://www.cancertrials.ie)

**3. Call**



Cancer Nurseline

Freephone 1800 200 700

Cancer Trials Ireland is supported by:



*Together, we're finding answers to cancer.*

The Just Ask Your Doctor! information campaign is supported by



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Tel: (01) 667 7211  
Web: [www.cancertrials.ie](http://www.cancertrials.ie)

**cancer trials...**

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**Just ask  
Your Team!**



Almost every family in Ireland has experienced cancer in some way.

Thankfully, we have made huge progress in finding it and treating it.

But there's more to be done. Many questions remain unanswered.

Maybe you can help us find the answers by taking part in a cancer trial.

This leaflet answers 10 questions you may have about cancer trials.

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**Q: What are cancer trials?**

**A:** Cancer trials look at new ways to prevent, find and treat cancer. They can also help improve the quality of life for people with cancer. Most trials involve testing new drugs or therapies which show promise or new combinations of existing drugs or therapies. Cancer trials are highly regulated and follow a long and careful research process to make sure they are as safe as possible.

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**Q: How would I benefit?**

**A:** On a cancer trial you may receive access to a treatment or procedure not available to other patients. You would be closely monitored by your study doctor and the research support team of nurses.

You would also be helping to find answers to cancer for future generations.

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**Q: Are there drawbacks?**

**A:** The treatment you would get during a trial may be different to what you would receive if you were not on a trial. There might be some side effects, some of which are not yet known. You might have to visit your hospital more often for blood tests, scans and other tests.

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**Q: How long do trials last?**

**A:** Trials can take place over many years and involve thousands of patients. The length of time you would be on a trial depends on what is being tested.

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**Q: When would I know the results?**

**A:** When your treatment is complete you would continue to be monitored, sometimes over a number of years. This is so that the trial team can build up a reliable picture of the effectiveness and safety of the treatment. When the trial is complete, the final results are published in a medical journal and available from your trial team. If new information becomes available during the trial you would be kept informed.

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**Q: Could I withdraw from a trial?**

**A:** Of course, taking part in a cancer trial is voluntary; you can withdraw at any stage. Your decision would not affect your relationship with your doctor.

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**Q: Would taking part affect the care I receive?**

**A:** On a trial you are likely to receive more care. You'll be monitored, and see your study doctor and nurse support team, more often. You'll have more opportunities to ask about your treatment, progress and general well-being.

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**Q: Why are cancer trials important?**

**A:** All cancer treatments used today were first tested through a cancer trial. Cancer trials prove the effectiveness and safety of new approaches to cancer treatments before they are made generally available. They also help us increase our knowledge of the best way to deliver these treatments. By taking part in a cancer trial you would be helping to test new ways to find and treat cancer.

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**Q: Can I take part in a cancer trial?**

**A:** Cancer trials are not open everyone and are not always available in all parts of the country. Each trial has strict guidelines on who can take part. For example, a trial might be for a certain age group, a particular type or stage of cancer or for patients who have already received certain treatments. Your doctor can advise you of the cancer trials available for your disease type and assess whether taking part in a trial is suitable for you and in your best interests.

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**Q: How can I find out more?**

**A:** Just Ask Your Doctor or healthcare professional if there is a cancer trial currently available that would suit you.

You can find a list of current trials at [www.cancertrials.ie](http://www.cancertrials.ie) and find out more by calling the Irish Cancer Society's Cancer Nurseline on Freephone 1800 200 700.

