

# Taking part in a research study ...Is it for me?

## Patient Information



The Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website is available on the link:  
<https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets> or scan the QR code.

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## **Introduction**

Research is a key part of the work of the NHS. The NHS seeks to inform patients about research studies in which they may be eligible to take part. Doctors use clinical research studies to compare current treatments to potentially better ones, so that they can continue to improve the care that is given to NHS patients.

Clinical studies compare the results of possible treatments to see which will give the best symptom relief or even a cure. Some research studies do not involve trying new treatments but gather information through questionnaires to help to understand how conditions impact on people's lives.

Within Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust we have numerous ongoing research projects across all our service areas. Many of these studies are carried out in partnership with local universities and health and social care organisations.

## **Our Research Team**

A team of people work together to ensure that each research study is run safely and to a high standard. The team may include research nurses, doctors, pharmacists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and scientists. Some studies are led by commercial companies working closely with the research team.

## **How to get involved – It's OK to ask**

In many cases you may be told about relevant studies when you visit the clinic. However, we also need patients to ask about research and to keep it at the top of the NHS agenda.

Please feel free to ask for more information about studies being carried out within our Trust and whether you might be eligible to take part. Our contact details are at the end of this leaflet.

## **Participation in research is voluntary**

Participation in research is always voluntary and patients are free to withdraw from research studies at any time without prejudicing their current or future treatment. All information is anonymised, stored securely, treated in strictest confidence and is not passed on to anyone outside the research team without your consent

## **Are you always able to take part in a study?**

All research studies are designed with guidelines to decide who will be eligible to take part. This could involve taking a detailed medical history and sometimes additional tests such as blood tests, x-rays or scans to decide if you are suitable for the study.

## Informed consent

Before taking part in any research study you will have a discussion with a member of the research team who will explain everything that will happen during the study. You will be given time to consider the information before being asked to sign a consent form. As a minimum, this consent form will ask for:

- confirmation that you have read and understood the information that was given
- confirmation that you are aware of potential risks and benefits of taking part in the study
- your agreement to be included in the research study
- your permission for your information to be included in the study
- your permission for the research team to access your medical records

## Potential benefits of taking part in research and clinical trials include:

- Any clinical trials using medications are very closely monitored.
- Your general health and well-being is constantly checked potentially more often than with 'usual care'.
- You have a team of research nurses who will look after you.
- Sometimes the medication or treatment is very new and is not yet available in routine care in the NHS.

## Further considerations

When taking part in research you are receiving special treatment but your role when taking part is just as important as the care you will receive for the research to run successfully. You will be expected to attend the hospital when required but will be advised of the number of visits involved before you consent to take part, and you will be asked to follow all instructions, for example, being asked to report any other illnesses, fasting before blood tests and reporting any adverse effects of the treatment. Before any appointments, it is a good idea to make a list of any questions that you have so that these can be answered in a timely manner.

## Our patients' experience

**“A place on a drugs trial was a chance to receive a medication in a safe way which was otherwise unavailable. Before any treatment, all was fully explained, and I was given time to consider if I would like to take part. I knew that I could always stop the treatment at any time if I decided to. When I agreed to treatment, I was given a lot of information to read. Do not worry if you struggle to read or fully understand this. Just ask the trials nurse about any concerns that you have or do not understand, and they will explain in plain English so that all is made clear to you.”**

**“Taking part in a clinical trial enabled me to try more effective medication whilst being very closely monitored across a broad range of measurements. This gave me confidence in the treatment and also reassurance about my general health”.**

Further information on taking part in a research study please contact the  
Research Department  
Tel: 0300 707 2427  
E-mail: [ResearchAdmin@wvl.nhs.uk](mailto:ResearchAdmin@wvl.nhs.uk)

Wrightington Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Wrightington Hospital  
Clinical Research Hub,  
Queens Road,  
Ashton-in-Makerfield,  
WN4 8LB

Please use this space to write notes or reminders.

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## Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends, and carers.

## Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager  
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary  
Wigan Lane  
Wigan  
WN1 2NN

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## Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the positives and negatives of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



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## How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use, and store the information we hold about you, please see patient information leaflet, Ref. **Corp 006** How we use your information, this can be found on the Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website, see details on the front cover.

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This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille, and other languages upon request. For more information, please ask in the department/ward.

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