**Audience: Community** 





#### What is a Clinical Trial?

Clinical trials help identify potential new treatments to improve people's health and save lives. Clinical trials answer questions about how well a treatment or therapy works and/or how safe it is by monitoring its effect on people (often through bloodwork and other tests, as well as checking for symptoms and side effects). The people in clinical trials are called clinical trial participants and are volunteers who may be healthy or have a specific illness or condition.





### Why do we need Clinical Trials?

Clinical trials are used to determine if the treatment is safe and works as expected in people. The treatment can be a drug, vaccine, medical device, medical procedure, and/or behavioral intervention. Before treatments can be used by the general public, they must undergo a series of clinical trials, called phases, and be approved by regulatory agencies (such as the FDA in the United States and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in Europe).



#### The Purpose for Clinical Trials

Clinical trials test medicines, vaccines or medical devices that are in development to see to see if they're safe and effective. It may take many clinical trials all around the world to understand which treatments work and how they work. New treatments are tested in clinical trials before government agencies can approve them for doctors to prescribe to people.

## Clinical trials are a key part of the drug development process:

- Help save and improve lives
- Learn more about how our bodies respond to investigational treatments
- Find new and better ways of advancing science



#### The Importance of Diversity & Inclusion in Clinical Trials

People may experience the same disease differently. It's essential that clinical trials include people with a variety of lived experiences and living conditions, as well as characteristics like race and ethnicity, age, sex, and sexual orientation, so that all communities can benefit from scientific advances.



Historically, clinical trials did not always recruit participants who represented the individuals most affected by a particular disease, condition, or behavior. Often, these clinical trials relied almost exclusively on White male study participants. This shortcoming has created gaps in our understanding of diseases and conditions, preventive factors, and treatment effectiveness across populations. These gaps in knowledge can impede the quality of health care decision making, ability to counsel people on ways to reduce their risk, optimal treatment responses, and even the development of more effective medications or interventions.

# Get in Touch



#### Interested in a clinical trial? Please contact us



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