NATIVE COMMUNITIES & CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS

WHY ARE CLINICAL TRIALS IMPORTANT?

Cancer clinical trials are available before and throughout the cancer care journey. **They are not just for people who have received a cancer diagnosis**. Some clinical trials include:

- Screening for cancer
- Lowering the risk of cancer
- Cancer treatments for all stages of the disease
- Helping with the side effects of cancer treatment
- Follow up after cancer treatment

Native people are often underrepresented in clinical trials, which makes it hard to determine how a drug, screening process, or therapy would work in Native populations. Clinical trials play an important role in improving the health of our relatives and communities. Native participation in clinical trials is also important so that our voices are represented in the work to improve our health and well-being.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Everyone can consider participating a cancer clinical trial. It is important that a diverse group of people (including Natives) are represented so that the trial results can be applied safely and effectively to all people.

WHERE CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Cancer clinical trials are available in hospitals and clinics across Minnesota! Local cancer care specialists have access to advances in cancer treatment, care delivery, and prevention research. **For more information, call 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237) or visit www.cancer.gov/contact**

JOINING A CLINICAL TRIAL

What are my options?

By looking closely at all your cancer care options, including clinical trials, you are taking an active role in a decision that affects your life. When you take part in a clinical trial, you help improve cancer care for future Native patients. Clinical trials are the key to making progress against cancer and advancing health equity for our communities.

Am I able to take part?

Every clinical trial has an approved protocol, or study plan, that describes what will be done during the trial, how the trial will be conducted, and why each part of the trial is necessary. The protocol also includes requirements that must be met for you to join a clinical trial. These requirements are called eligibility criteria.

How do I sign up?

Informed consent is a process through which you learn details and ask questions about the trial before deciding whether to take part. This process includes learning about the trial's purpose and possible risks and benefits. It is a critical part of ensuring patient safety in research.

What happens next?

You begin your cancer treatment or intervention. Your cancer care team and research staff will let you know the schedule of your next visits, tests, and surveys so that you can be followed closely throughout your clinical trial participation.

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American Indian Cancer Foundation

minnesota cancer alliance
working together to eliminate the burden of cancer