

CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS in Indian Country



WHAT ARE CLINICAL TRIALS?

Clinical trials are research studies that help us learn how to keep people healthy and treat those who are sick. Scientists (researchers) work with volunteers (participants) to test new ways to prevent, find, or treat cancer and to improve quality of life. For this reason, without Native participation in clinical trials, health care and treatments may not fully reflect the needs, experiences, and realities of Native communities.

Clinical trials are available throughout your cancer care journey, not only for advanced cancer.

Research is not new to Native communities.

Long before Western research methods, our ancestors carefully observed and studied traditional medicines to understand their healing benefits and ensure their safety. We have always been researchers and scientists.

WHAT TO EXPECT IF YOU JOIN A CLINICAL TRIAL

- Participation is voluntary
- You receive clear information and can ask questions at any time
- Your health is closely monitored by healthcare and research teams
- You may leave the study at any time, for any reason

WHY CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS MATTER

Cancer clinical trials help:

- Find better ways to prevent cancer
- Detect cancer earlier
- Treat cancer more effectively
- Improve quality of life

Every cancer treatment used today began as a clinical trial. When Native people participate, research is more effective, safer, and better reflects our communities' needs, benefiting current and future generations.



YOUR RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS

- Informed consent explains benefits, risks, and expectations
- Your personal health information is protected
- You can stop participating at any time

Your safety, choice, and dignity come first.

HOW DO CLINICAL TRIALS WORK?

Researchers study new treatments in steps to ensure safety and effectiveness. Some prevention or screening trials may work differently. By law, you must be told exactly what participation involves before agreeing.

1

A new treatment idea is developed.



2

The treatment is studied in animals and found to be safe.



3

Small groups help researchers understand the side effects.



4

Larger groups confirm the treatment works and is safe



5

If the treatment is shown to be safe and effective in all these steps, it can be approved for everyone to use.



COMMON QUESTIONS FROM NATIVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Will I get a placebo?

Most cancer trials compare new treatments to existing ones. Placebos are rare.

Will I be treated like a guinea pig?

No. You can say no, ask questions, and leave at any time.

Is participation expensive?

Many costs are covered by insurance or the study sponsor. Ask the study team about costs before joining.



**NATIVE PARTICIPATION IN
CLINICAL TRIALS STRENGTHENS
RESEARCH TODAY AND PROTECTS
THE HEALTH OF FUTURE
GENERATIONS.**

**SCAN THE CODE TO
LEARN MORE.**



This resource was developed by the Minnesota Cancer Clinical Trials Network (MNCCTN) in partnership with the American Indian Cancer Foundation (AICAF) to support Native communities with culturally grounded, trustworthy information about cancer clinical trials. For more information, please visit americanindiancancer.org. Graphic design by Moira Villiard.