



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT THE AMERICAN
INDIAN CANCER FOUNDATION**

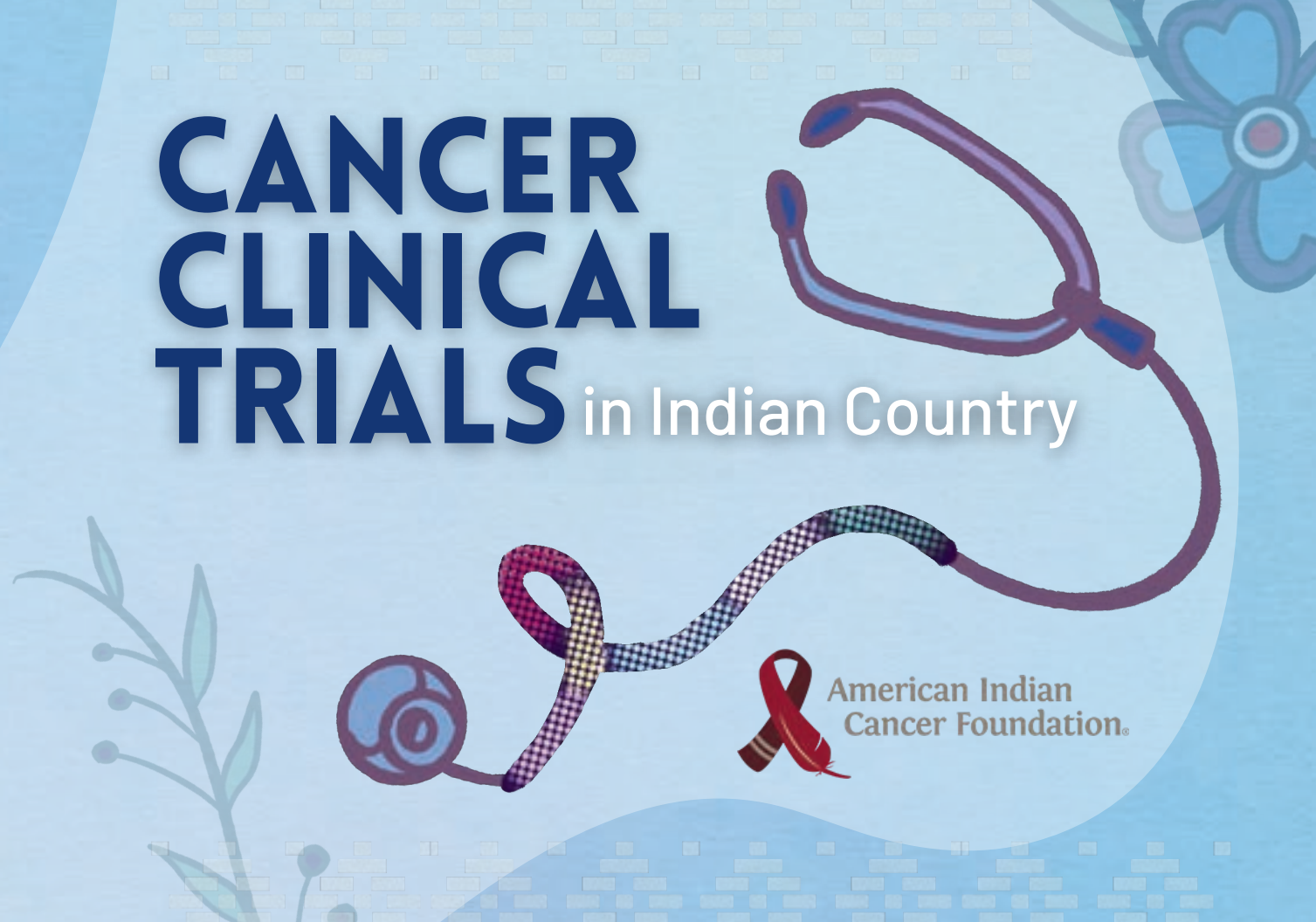


**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
MINNESOTA CLINICAL TRIALS
NETWORK, SCAN THE QR CODE**

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 (Miri) Villiard.

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. They are led by scientists who recruit volunteers, also known as research participants. They test new treatments and medicines to ensure they are safe and effective.

Cancer clinical trials aim to:

- Find better ways to prevent cancer
- Find or detect cancer earlier
- Treat it more effectively
- Improve quality of life

RESEARCH AND CLINICAL TRIALS ARE NOT A NEW IDEA WITHIN NATIVE COMMUNITIES.

Long before Western research methods, our ancestors carefully observed and studied traditional medicines to learn their healing benefits and ensure they were safe for use. **We have always been researchers and scientists.**

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING A CLINICAL TRIAL?

People who join clinical trials may gain access to new treatments or care approaches that are not yet widely available.

Participants are closely monitored by their healthcare and research teams.

Clinical trials are voluntary and follow strict rules to protect patient safety.

Participants receive clear information, can ask questions, and may choose to leave a study at any time.

Clinical trials are available at many points in the cancer care journey, including prevention, screening, treatment, side-effect management, and follow-up care.

HOW DO CLINICAL TRIALS WORK?

1

Dr. Cedar thinks a new treatment could shrink cancer.



2

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



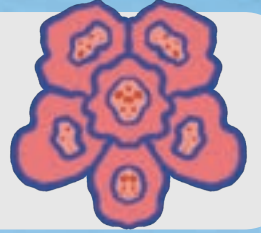
3

Dr. Cedar works with healthy human volunteers to make sure the treatment is safe and to learn about side effects.



4

Dr. Cedar works with a small group of cancer patients to see if the treatment shrinks their tumors.



5

A larger group of cancer patients uses the treatment to confirm it is safe and effective.



6

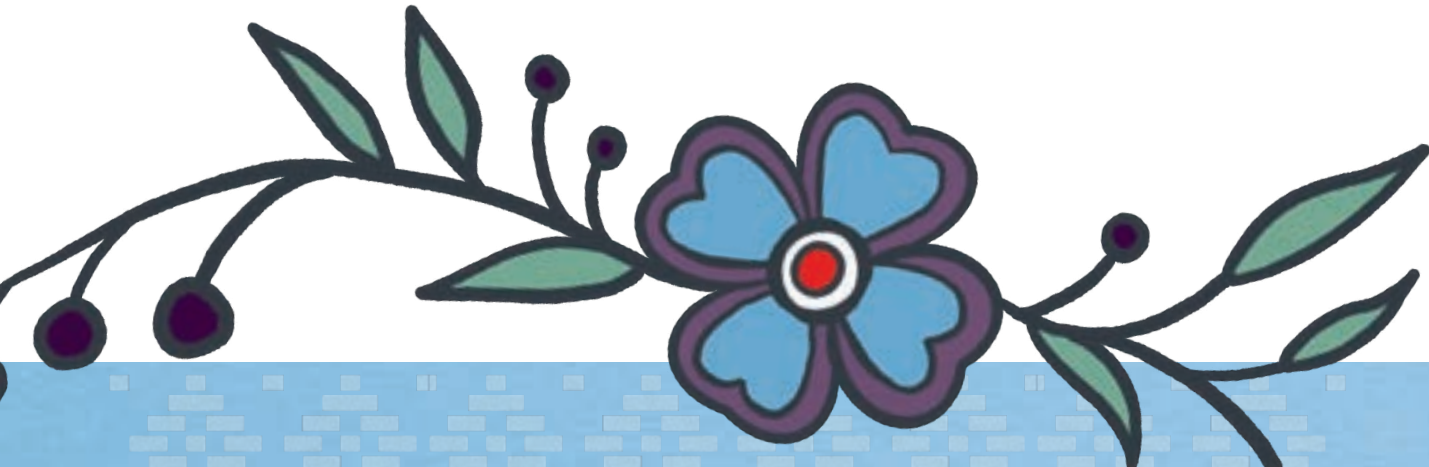
If the treatment is shown to be safe and effective in all these steps, it can be approved for everyone to use.



SAFETY OF CLINICAL TRIALS

Today, clinical trials have many phases to answer various questions, like “Is this medication safe? Is it effective at reducing cancer? What are the side effects?”

A new cancer treatment must be proven safe in animals before researchers can recruit research participants. There are only a few participants during the earlier phases of a trial. Later-phase trials include larger numbers of participants.



VALUE OF CLINICAL TRIALS

Clinical trials help improve how we prevent, find, and treat cancer. Every cancer treatment used today began as a clinical trial.

When clinical trials include more people and diverse populations, treatments and drugs are more effective and safer for everyone. Participating in cancer clinical trials can help ensure research addresses the needs and priorities of Native communities, while also improving treatments for us.

Participation helps ensure that cancer care and treatments reflect our communities, experiences, and needs. By participating in a clinical trial, individuals help themselves, their families, and future generations. Clinical trials help move cancer care forward and support healthier Native communities.

Clinical trials are available at many points throughout the cancer care journey and are not only for people with advanced cancer.

INFORMED CONSENT

In the past, western researchers have violated the rights of Native research participants and our community's trust. **There are protections in place to prevent this from happening now.**

Participants are provided an "informed consent" form, which describes all the possible benefits and risks of the study. Participants receive clear information and can ask questions at any point.

There are strict rules now protecting your personal health information.

You can leave a clinical trial at any time if you feel uncomfortable or do not want to participate anymore.



QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS RAISED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

WILL I BE GIVEN A PLACEBO?

In most cancer clinical trials, the new treatment is being compared to an existing treatment. Placebos (inactive medications) are very rare nowadays.

I'M AFRAID OF BEING TREATED LIKE A GUINEA PIG.

You can say "no" if you are asked to join a clinical trial. You can ask as many questions as you want or need to feel comfortable before making a decision. If you join a trial and decide later that it is the wrong choice for you, you can leave at any time.

HOW LONG OF A COMMITMENT WOULD IT BE?

Clinical trials vary in duration, but you can leave a clinical trial at any time for any reason.

ARE CLINICAL TRIALS EXPENSIVE TO PARTICIPATE IN?

Insurance & trial sponsors cover many of the costs, but you can ask study coordinators more specific questions about cost before you join.



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