Research discoveries can improve people’s health.

Before you decide to become a research volunteer, get the facts:

- Know what you’re getting into.
- Ask questions.
- Learn as much as you can.
- Know the pros and cons.

It’s Your Decision

For more information call:

Office for Human Research Protections

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What Is Research?
• Research is a study that is done to answer a question.
• Scientists do research because they don’t know for sure what works best to help you.
• Some other words that describe research are clinical trial, protocol, survey, or experiment.
• Research is not the same as treatment.

Why Is Research Important?
Research has led to important discoveries that make our lives better. Some examples are:
• New drugs to treat cancer, diabetes, and other diseases
• Ultrasound, X-ray machines, and diagnostic tests
• Vaccines
• Ways to stop smoking
• Improved medical procedures

Questions to Ask
• What exactly will happen to me in the research?
• Will there be any unpleasant side effects?
• Will the research help me personally?
• What other options do I have?
• Can I leave the study at any time?
• Will it cost me anything personally?

Points to Consider
• A research study may or may not help you personally.
• In the future, the results could help others who have a health problem.
• Taking part in research is voluntary.

Someday, you or a family member may want to take part in a research study. If this happens, the information here may help you make the right decision.