

Clinical Research and Clinical Trials

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Cindi Laukes, MA is the Clinical Research Manager for both the Montana Neuroscience Institute and the Montana Cancer Institute. Cindi dropped by to discuss clinical research and clinical trials.

She also provided me with some tips to post for those of you considering participating in a clinical trial.

TIPS FOR RESEARCH PATIENTS: BEING INFORMED

CAREFULLY READ THE INFORMED CONSENT FOR ANY STUDY. As a potential participant, you have the right and the responsibility to ask questions and make sure you fully understand the risks and potential benefits of participation in a study. If necessary, ask to take a copy of the consent form home to read it and discuss it with your family or regular doctor before signing.

Ask the study coordinator or nurse up front about any tests or scheduling that will need to be done in association with the study. You may need to schedule things in your life differently for a period of time to accommodate your participation in a study.

Ask the study coordinator what will or will not be paid for by the study.

If it is a medication study, make sure you fully understand how to take the medication, and ask for written instructions if you have not received them. Get a contact number for emergencies. Ask about any possible side effects and what you should be aware of. Make sure your study doctor or nurse knows ALL the medications and supplements you are currently taking in addition to the study medication.

Make sure all of your questions are answered to your satisfaction. As a patient, you always have the right to know about your own medical care. You also have the right to withdraw from a research study at any time after you have discussed your reasons with the study doctor. It is very important to talk to the study doctor before discontinuing any research treatment on your own.

Cindi Laukes, MA

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