New Mexico Cancer Care Alliance is a New Mexico nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

NMCCA is a growing network of more than 120 physicians who work in private practice and in the major healthcare institutions in central, northern and southern New Mexico. We work together to find the most efficient and effective ways to bring the most promising cancer treatments available through research studies (also known as cancer clinical trials) to New Mexicans. If you would like to consider a clinical research study as part of your cancer treatment, please contact one of the physicians in the NMCCA network.

Our Goals

- Make it easier for cancer patients to participate in a clinical trial
- Increase the quality of cancer care in New Mexico
- Ensure access for all New Mexicans to the best cancer therapies offered through clinical research studies.

New Mexico Cancer Care Alliance Provides:

- Cancer Clinical Trials
- Community Newsletters
- A List of Cancer Clinical Trials Available in New Mexico. (www.nmcca.org/patients/patients)
- HERO (Helping to Enhance Research in Oncology) Program:
  - Provides Public and Professional Educational Programs
  - Recognition Breakfast for Participants on Clinical Trials

New Mexico Cancer Care Alliance is a member of the Albuquerque Cancer Coalition and the New Mexico Cancer Council.

For more information about our programs visit our website at www.nmcca.org.

Thank You

To all those who are HEROs and taking part in clinical research studies today and in the future...

NMCCA firmly believes that the knowledge gained through current cancer research studies will someday provide the answers that will allow physicians to prolong remission, improve the quality of a patient's life and even find a cure for some cancers.

RESEARCH CURES CANCER
New Mexico Cancer Care Alliance

Things to Consider

Who's eligible to participate in a clinical trial?

Each study has its own set of guidelines for those who can participate. Generally, participants are alike in key ways - such as the type and stage of cancer, age, gender, and other factors.

Will I receive a placebo?

Placebos are rarely used alone in cancer research unless no known effective treatments exist. It's certainly not ethical to have someone take a placebo if an effective standard treatment is already available.

Who pays for the patient care costs on clinical trials?

Health plans and managed care providers do not always cover all patient care costs in a study. What they cover varies by plan and by study. Ask a doctor, nurse or social worker from the study to help you determine in advance what costs are covered.

How do I find a clinical trial that's right for me?

Talk to your physician about clinical trials. Trials that are available in New Mexico through NMCCA can be found at www.nmcca.org/patients/patients.

For national studies:

- www.cancer.gov
- www.clinicaltrials.gov
- www.cancertrialshelp.org

Is my medical information kept confidential?

Yes, your identity is protected by a code that is assigned to you. This code links your information to your treatment. Only people who need to know will have access to that code.

Medicare:

Medicare covers the cost of participating in many cancer treatment clinical trials. For more information, call 1-800-Medicare.

Private insurance:

In New Mexico, the Clinical Trials Bill mandates health plans to cover routine patient care costs incurred as a result of the patient's participation in a phase II, III or IV cancer clinical trial.

The cost of bringing a drug to market is over a billion dollars. The average number of years for an anti-cancer drug to be approved is 14.4 years. Only one out of twenty compounds even make it to market.

could you be a HERO?

Helping to Enhance Research In Oncology

a patient's guide to research studies

New Mexico Cancer Care Alliance

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What are Cancer Clinical Trials?

Clinical trials are research studies that involve people. Each study tries to answer scientific questions and to find better ways to prevent, diagnose or treat cancer.

In cancer research a clinical trial is designed to show how a particular anticancer strategy -- for instance, a promising drug, a gene therapy treatment, a new diagnostic test, or a possible way to prevent cancer -- affects the people who receive it.

Clinical trials contribute to knowledge of and progress against cancer. Many of today's most effective cancer treatments are based on previous study results. Because of progress made through clinical trials, many people treated for cancer are now living longer.

All clinical trials are voluntary. You always have the right to choose whether or not you will take part in a clinical trial. The level of care you get should not be affected by your decision. And you have the right to leave a clinical trial at any time, for any reason.

Cancer clinical trials have brought enormous advances in the areas of cancer prevention, treatment and diagnosis. However, less than 5 percent of adults diagnosed with cancer each year will get treated through enrollment in a clinical trial (vs. 90% participation in Pediatric trials with a cure rate that exceeds 75%).

Types of Cancer Clinical Trials

Types of Clinical Trials

There are several different types of cancer clinical trials. Each type of trial is designed to answer different research questions:

Treatment Trials

- What new treatment approaches can help people who have cancer?
- What is the most effective treatment for people who have cancer?

Prevention Trials

- What approaches can prevent a specific type of cancer from developing in people who have not previously had cancer?

- ***Early-detection/screening trials***

What are new ways of finding cancer in people before they have any symptoms?

- ***Diagnostic trials***

How can new tests or procedures identify cancer more accurately and at an earlier stage?

- ***Quality-of-life/supportive care trials***

What kind of new approaches can improve the comfort and quality of life of people who have cancer?

Phases of Clinical Trials

Trials take place in four phases, each designed to answer different research questions.

Phase I

- To find a safe dose
- To decide how the new treatment should be given
- To see how the new treatment affects the human body
- 15-30 people per study

Phase II

- To determine if the new treatment has an effect on a certain cancer
- To see how the new treatment affects the human body
- Less than 100 people per study

Phase III

- To compare the new treatment (or new use of a treatment) with the current standard treatment
- From 100 to thousands of people per study

Phase IV

- To further assess the long-term safety and effectiveness of a new treatment
- Several hundred to several thousand people per study

What are the potential risks and benefits of clinical trials?

Potential benefits include

- Participants have access to promising new approaches that are often not available outside the clinical trial setting.
- The approach being studied may be more effective than the standard approach.
- Participants receive regular and careful medical attention from a research team that includes doctors and other health professionals.
- Participants may be the first to benefit from the new method under study.
- Results from the study may help others in the future.

Potential risks include

- New drugs or procedures under study are not always better than the standard care to which they are being compared.
- New treatments may have side effects or risks that doctors do not expect or that are worse than those resulting from standard care.
- Participants in randomized trials will not be able to choose the approach they receive.
- Health insurance and managed care providers may not cover all patient care costs in a study.
- Participants may be required to make more visits to the doctor than they would if they were not in the clinical trial.

Through a process called informed consent you will learn about a study's treatments and tests, and their possible benefits and risks, before deciding whether or not to participate.

References

"Taking Part in Cancer Treatment Research Studies." National Cancer Institute. July 2007. http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/Taking-Part-in-Cancer-Treatment-Research-Studies

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