Clinical trials are an essential part of medical research. They help us develop better treatments to improve healthcare for adults and children. This can lead to real breakthroughs that save lives and improve quality of life. You may be interested in joining a clinical trial to improve healthcare, or to support medical research in a particular field because you or someone close to you has a specific illness. 2018 marks the NHS’ 70th birthday – all the more reason to give the gift of research.

If you have a medical condition, you might think about joining a clinical trial to gain access to a new treatment or device being tested. However, it is important to keep in mind that the drug trial or research study on a new treatment is only carried out to find out if the new option is better than what is currently offered. It may be the same, or it may be worse. Drugs or devices tested in trials may also not be made available to everyone on the NHS after the trial ends.

By taking part in a clinical trial you may feel that you are taking an active role in your healthcare. This may be of benefit to you. On some clinical trials your condition may be monitored more regularly than with standard care.

Why not ask your doctor, nurse or healthcare professional what kind of attention you will receive.

Improving healthcare through health research

Taking an active role in your own care

Accessing new treatments and devices

“I know that I’m making an impact with the research. I’m trying to improve the quality of life for people with Huntington’s Disease. From our perspective it became a no brainer that we wanted to do research because we know there’s a strong chance that what’s ahead for us will also be our children’s future. But we want to know that there’s hope and there’s an opportunity for our kids to have a full life ahead of them.”

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“I’ve been a part of the clinical trials for many years and have seen the difference it can make. It’s important to give back to the community by participating in clinical trials.”

“It’s nice to help people and say, ‘this is of benefit to someone’. Research is a necessity for us to move forward, to help people and to cut down anxieties, stresses and strains. If people would share more we would benefit more. You could be saving someone weeks, months, or years of anguish just by sharing that one little thing. Take part in as much research as you can. I recommend it 100%.”

“I was diagnosed with Huntington’s Disease and was told I only had years to live. I didn’t want to give up and so I decided to participate in a clinical trial. It’s been a blessing and has given me a new lease on life.”
Every year, more than half a million people help the NHS improve healthcare and develop life-saving treatments by taking part in health and social care research.

Be part of the solution
Help shape the next 70 years of the NHS

Find out more

To find out more about clinical research and how you can get involved, ask your doctor, nurse or healthcare professional, or visit www.iamresearch.co.uk

Join the conversation

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