

research studies allow patients to take a proactive approach to their healthcare

Should I Participate IN A RESEARCH STUDY?

Each year, pharmaceutical companies spend billions of dollars developing novel medications for the treatment and prevention of human disease. Before a new medication can be approved for use in the general population, each medication must first undergo a rigorous and intensive evaluation process to assess its safety and effectiveness.

These companies, through clinical research trials, depend on experienced researchers to safely and accurately evaluate these medications in a select group of research patients. Dr. John Earl, Medical Director at Unifour Medical Research in Hickory recently commented that, "Medications and overall medical care is a continuous and evolving process. A patient's participation and involvement is critical to furthering the knowledge and understanding of illnesses."

Each clinical study has a unique and detailed protocol that the research center follows for evaluating the medication and condition under study. During an initial study visit, called a screening visit, a medical doctor and study coordinator will review a detailed consent form so that each patient can make an informed decision about his/her participation.

Dr. John Kessel, another investigator for Unifour Medical Research, says "Prior to participating, study patients are presented with all the information that they will need to make an informed decision. Study volunteers are just that – volunteers – and are not required to participate. We make sure that our volunteers know about other medical care options available to them if they do not take part in the study."

After the consent process, a patient's medical history and medications are reviewed. Several additional tests, like a physical exam, blood and urine samples, and an EKG may also be performed at no charge to help the physician assess a patient's overall health to determine if he/she qualifies per the criteria set by the protocol.

Qualified study participants will be provided with study medication with thorough instructions on how to take it, as well as specific instructions to follow throughout the course of the study. Regular follow up visits are then periodically conducted to ensure each patients safety throughout the course of the trial. Dr. Kessel stated that "Patients in our studies are consistently and carefully monitored. Safety is our number one priority."

So, you may be asking yourself, why should I participate in a research study? Aside from any potential benefits you may receive from the study itself, research studies allow patients to take a proactive approach to their healthcare. Since all medications must go through this thorough process, patients participating in clinical trials actually aid in the understanding of various conditions which in turn helps improve the health of others. Finally, patient volunteers may also be compensated for their time and travel for participating.

How Can I Get Involved?

Visit us on the web at www.pmg-research.com/unifour for more information about our clinical trials. You can also call **828-345-5060** to speak to someone about participating.

Got Type 2 Diabetes?

Frustrated with your blood sugar levels?

You may want to consider participating in a research study of an investigational medication for Type II Diabetes. Eligible participants must be 18 to 80 years of age and not using insulin for their diabetes.

Study participants will receive all study-related care including study medication, laboratory testing, electrocardiogram and diabetic testing supplies at no charge. Financial compensation for travel-related expenses will be provided to qualified participants. Health insurance is not needed to participate.



Please contact: 828-345-5060 www.pmg-research.com/unifour

Has smoking left you coughing and breathless?

If so, men and women who are at least 40 years old may be eligible for a research study of an investigational inhaled medication for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease(COPD) symptoms. All study related care and study medication will be provided to study participants at no cost. For each completed study visit, qualified participants will receive \$35 in financial compensation for time and travel.



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