Questions to Ask About a Clinical Trial

salto health

A clinical trial may or may not be right for you. These are the questions that help you find out.
Bring this with you, and bring someone if you can, to write the answers down.
Asking about a trial does not commit you to anything.

UNDERSTANDING THIS TRIAL

- [ ] What is this trial testing, and what question is it trying to answer?
- [ ] Why do you think it might be a good fit for me?
- [ ] What phase is it, and what does that mean?
- [ ] Who is running it, and who is paying for it?
- [ ] How many people are in it?
- [ ] What is already known about the treatment being studied?
- [ ] Is this trial registered, and can I look it up?

WHETHER I AM ELIGIBLE

- [ ] What would I need to do to find out if I qualify?
- [ ] Are there extra tests or appointments just to be considered?
- [ ] How long does that take, and does it delay starting treatment?
- [ ] If I am not eligible, are there other trials I should look at?

WHAT BEING IN IT INVOLVES

- [ ] What would I actually be doing, and how often?
- [ ] How is that different from the standard treatment I would get otherwise?
- [ ] How long does the trial last?
- [ ] How many extra appointments, tests, or scans would there be?
- [ ] Would I need to travel, and how far?
- [ ] Is there a chance I would receive a placebo or standard treatment instead?
- [ ] Who would be looking after me day to day?

RISKS AND WHAT TO EXPECT

- [ ] What side effects are known so far?
- [ ] What is not known yet?
- [ ] How would side effects be monitored and managed?
- [ ] Who do I call if something goes wrong at night or on a weekend?
- [ ] What happens if the treatment does not work for me?
- [ ] What are my options if I am not in the trial?

COST AND COVERAGE

- [ ] What does the trial pay for, and what would I or my insurance pay for?
- [ ] Are travel, parking, or lodging costs covered?
- [ ] Will my insurance cover the standard parts of my care while I am in it?
- [ ] Is there someone here who can help me sort out the cost side?

LEAVING THE TRIAL

- [ ] Can I leave at any time, for any reason?
- [ ] What happens to my care if I do?
- [ ] Would leaving affect my relationship with this center or my team?

AFTERWARD

- [ ] Would I keep getting the treatment if it works for me?
- [ ] Will I be told the results of the trial?
- [ ] Who follows up with me after it ends?

NOTES

This is a list of questions to help you talk with your care team. It is not medical advice and it does not replace anything your doctors tell you. Your care team has the information that applies to your situation.