

Benefits and risks of taking part in a clinical trial

Clinical trials are carefully designed to reduce the risks and maximise the benefits to those taking part. You will be told everything that is known about possible side effects and risks by the research team before deciding whether or not to take part. If the study is suitable for you and you decide to go ahead you will be monitored regularly during the study. This may involve a variety of tests or answering questions about how you feel.

Taking part in research may mean you see a doctor more often than you would normally. Extra medical attention could lead to early detection and treatment of any changes in your health. Taking part in research does not mean that you will definitely receive the new treatment, you may be allocated to a placebo, an inactive substance such as a sugar pill; doctors can then monitor how effective the drug really is in comparison to a substance that is inactive. Some research can be about making comparisons between new and current treatments or looking at the benefits of a new treatment where there currently is none.

Contact

Cognitive Treatment & Research Unit

Grove House, Southview Road,
Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 1HB

For telephone or email enquiries

Tel: Tel: 01825 745016 ext 5027

Or: 01892 669393 ext 6140

Email: CTRU@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk

Patient, Advice & Liaison Service (PALS)

Email: pals@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk

Web: You can leave a comment or ask a question on: www.patientopinion.org.uk

East Sussex Area Office

Woodside, The Drive, Hellingly,
East Sussex, BN27 4ER.

Tel: 01323 446042

West Sussex Area Office

Swandean, Arundel Road, Worthing,
West Sussex, BN13 3EP.

Tel: 01903 843185

Brighton & Hove Area Office

Aldrington House, 35 New Church Road,
Hove, East Sussex, BN3 4AF.

Tel: 01273 716588

www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk

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Clinical Research into the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease

Cognitive Treatment
and Research Unit (CTRU)

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community languages please
contact: 01273 265898

What is the Cognitive Treatment and Research Unit (CTRU)

The CTRU is dedicated specifically to research into the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, other dementias and the needs of older people. We have been undertaking clinical trials since 2007 and the unit is run by a number of doctors, nurses and administration staff.

The overall aim of the CTRU is to give excellent patient care whilst investigating new possibilities for the treatment of dementia.

Why Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust hosts clinical trials?

Clinical trials improve our understanding of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease. This may involve comparing treatments or looking at new ones. It is important that we contribute to clinical research and the development of new medicinal products to help patients in the future. Clinical research provides opportunities to support and participate in the development and evaluation of new treatments and this is crucial to the improvement of patient care.

What kind of research is hosted at the CTRU?

This varies from observational studies to clinical trials testing the effectiveness of new treatments.

Who can get involved?

All trials have what is called 'eligibility criteria' to make sure that those taking part may benefit from the treatments being tested.

If you are interested in taking part in a research trial our research team will check suitability before you make any commitments. Any patient who meets the inclusion criteria is eligible to take part, however places on clinical trials can be limited and we can't always guarantee a place.

Generally:

- Participant must have someone to accompany them to study visits.
- Participant must take their study medication regularly.
- Participant must have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or memory problems.

There is no catchment area and a referral can be made from anywhere, but bear in mind that to take part in a trial at the CTRU you would need to be willing to travel to the unit in Crowborough, East Sussex.

Note: Note: All travel costs will be reimbursed, but all travel arrangements will be agreed prior to you taking part.

How can I find out if I am suitable to participate?

If you or someone you care for would like to get involved in research then you can make a self-referral or ask your carer to refer you. You can also ask your doctor or care coordinator to refer you. All our contact details are provided on the back of the leaflet. Following the referral, one of the research nurses will visit you at home to assess your suitability. The next step will involve an appointment for you to see the study doctor who will tell you about the research trial in detail. This is to ensure that you are fully informed about the trial and what would be expected of you if you become a participant. You will then be given plenty of time to make your mind up about whether or not you wish to participate.

You can also withdraw from a study at any time if you change your mind.

What if I am not suitable for a research study?

You can ask the research team to hold on to your details so they can contact you when a study that would be suitable for you becomes available.

You can also call the research team at any time to find out if there are any studies that would be of interest to you and for which you would be suitable.