

GLOSSARY OF TERMS: CLINICAL TRIALS

TERM	DEFINITION
Adverse Event	A negative change in the health of a participant.
Double-Blind	In a double-blind study, only the pharmacist will know what treatment the study volunteer is receiving. The patient, doctor, nurses, and other medical professionals will not know if the patient is receiving the investigational treatment or the standard of care.
Institutional Review Board (IRB)	IRB's exist to ensure the ethical management of the trial. IRB's are made up of doctors, scientists, advocates, and community members.
Placebo	While it may look like an active drug, placebos are inactive and have no active ingredients. Note: in cancer clinical trials, placebos are not used. Instead, the investigational drug is compared to the standard of care.
Protocol	This is a written document that clearly defines the types of participants that can (or cannot) qualify to be in the trial. It also covers what the treatment schedule and dosage is, as well as what outcome the study is measuring.
Randomization	Studies that are randomized mean that participants are randomly placed in one of two groups. In cancer clinical trials, this means one group will receive the investigational drug, and one group will receive the standard of care.
Sponsor	An organization or individual that is overseeing the trial and analyzes the data collected.
Standard of Care/ Standard Treatment	Sometimes referred to as the "control", this is what the investigational drug is being compared to. Standard of Care is a treatment that is approved and in use for treating cancer outside of the clinical trial setting,
Subject	Refers to an individual participating in the trial. "Subject" may refer to patient volunteers or healthy volunteers.

While navigating a clinical trial can be confusing, the GCCA has compiled resources to help you and your health care team determine if a clinical trial is right for you. Visit www.globalcca.org/clinical-trials for more information, including:

- Links to online clinical trial databases, including colorectal cancer-specific trials
- Printable materials to bring to your healthcare team to use as a discussion guide
- List of non-profits and their clinical trial resources and how to access the programs