

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Q What kinds of research projects might I be invited to participate in?

- **Screening studies** that trial new ways to detect health problems or conditions
- **Prevention studies** that test new ways to prevent disease or health issues
- **Observational studies** that monitor people's health and wellbeing over time without interference
- **Intervention trials** that test the effectiveness and safety of a specific intervention, such as a new drug, medical device, or treatment approach

## Q If I receive an invitation to participate in research does this mean I have to say 'yes'?

Receiving an invitation does NOT mean you have agreed to take part. Each invitation will include information on:

- What the research study is investigating and why it is of interest
- What your involvement would be
- How long the study will take
- Any risks and benefits

You should always read the information provided before deciding whether being part of a study is right for you. Participating in research is VOLUNTARY. If you are not interested, just say 'No'.

## Q What are the possible benefits of participating in research?

### **Benefits to you as a participant**

- Learn more about your health
  - If you are unwell now or become unwell in the future, you may benefit by learning more about your health and health care options
    - Access new treatments or interventions before they are widely available
    - Potential improvements in your health and wellbeing
    - Become more engaged in your health care
    - Understand how research leads to new discoveries
    - You may be offered compensation, reimbursement or other incentives for your participation



# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q** What are the possible benefits of participating in research?

**Benefits to society, medicine and science**

- Be part of a study that is advancing knowledge about treating health issues or disease prevention
- Your participation may lead to better treatments, health policies or services for others
- You will be helping to improve patient care

**Q** What happens if I decline to participate in a particular study?

Nothing. Let us know that you do not wish to participate and you will not be contacted any further about the study.

**Q** If I decline to participate in a study, will that stop me getting invitations for others?

It is OK to say "No" to specific research invitations. Unless you decide to change your contact preferences, we will continue to invite you to participate in relevant upcoming research opportunities.

**Q** What if I change my mind about being contacted for research opportunities?

You can change your mind at any time by letting us know either in person, by phone, email or SMS.

**Q** Where can I find out more about what it means to participate in research?

You can find out more information about participating in health research by:

1. Visiting the **Australian Clinical Trials** website
2. Typing 'Research' in the search field when visiting the **Consumer Health Forum**

*This information pamphlet was created by the Victorian Primary Care Practice-Based Research and Education Network  
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