

## **Clinical Trials** <sup>[1]</sup>

At Novartis, we are determined to help people in the UK and around the world who live with many different conditions to improve and extend their lives. A critical part of this ambition is our programme of clinical research.

Clinical trials are fundamental to the development of new medicines and help to enhance the quality of, or even prolong life,<sup>1</sup> while progressing scientific understanding and enabling earlier access to new, innovative medicines.<sup>2,3</sup> Clinical research can also provide a vital 'life-line' and an alternative treatment approach for many patients.<sup>3</sup>

### **CLINICAL TRIALS: THE FACTS**



Without clinical trials, many of the medicines we rely on today would not exist.<sup>1</sup> Clinical trials ensure that medicines are generally well tolerated and effective, and that new, innovative treatments are continuously being developed for people with different illnesses.<sup>1,4</sup>

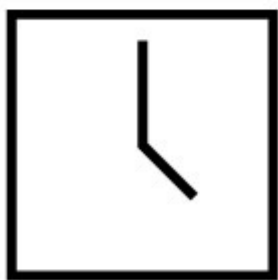
At Novartis, we understand that involvement in clinical trials might naturally create apprehension among patients and their families, friends or carers. We have listened to common queries regarding clinical trials and this page provides answers to some of the most **frequently asked questions** <sup>[2]</sup>.

## **CLINICAL TRIALS IN PHASES<sup>4,5</sup>**

Clinical trials are divided into phases, ranging from 1 to 4, also written as phase I-IV. Earlier phases determine the safety of a treatment and any potential side effects, while later stages examine whether a new medicine is more effective than existing therapies but also evaluating the safety for more uncommon side effects..



## Duration



Up to **several** months

Up to **two** years

## Purpose



Investigates the safety profile of the drug and aims to identify a safe dose that can be used in humans

Investigates the safety of the drug and aims to identify a safe dose for use in humans and looks for signs of efficacy