

# BECOMING A RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

IT'S YOUR DECISION



## Office of Research

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## ABOUT RESEARCH

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### ➤ IMPROVING PATIENT CARE THROUGH RESEARCH

Intermountain Healthcare is a learning healthcare organization. As such, we provide research opportunities to our patients, with the voluntary option to participate. We know that supporting research furthers knowledge and advances medical discovery, resulting in higher-quality care and better patient outcomes.

### ➤ WHAT IS RESEARCH?

A research study is designed to answer a specific health or disease related question. Scientists do research so they can determine what works best to help you. Research is not the same as treatment but can help determine treatment through the scientific discovery process. Other words that describe research include:

- Clinical trial
- Clinical study
- Protocol
- Survey
- Experiment

### ➤ WHY IS RESEARCH IMPORTANT?

Research provides important information about diseases, health risk factors, outcomes of treatment, and more. It is through research that new drugs for cancer are discovered, diagnostic machines are improved, vaccines for life threatening diseases are found, and better medical procedures are developed.

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*Taking part in a research study is strictly voluntary.*



### ➤ GET THE FACTS

Before you register to become a research participant, know what you are getting into. Ask questions, learn as much as you can, and know the pros and cons before you participate in a study. Being informed will help you decide whether the study is right for you.

### ➤ WHAT TO CONSIDER

A research study may or may not help you personally but the results could help future generations who have health problems. Taking part in research is strictly voluntary. It is your decision to participate — choosing not to participate will in no way affect the care you receive from Intermountain Healthcare.

### ➤ INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)

An Institutional Review Board (also called an IRB), is a committee of doctors, scientists, and people from the community where the research is taking place. An IRB reviews the research plan for the study to make sure people in the study will be treated fairly, that any risks will be explained to them, and that their rights and welfare are protected. Before a study can start, the research plan must be approved by an IRB. The Intermountain Institutional Review board reviews research studies.