WHAT IS A RESEARCH STUDY?

A research study is a scientific way to improve or develop new methods of health care. Studies are designed to answer specific questions on how to prevent, diagnose, or treat diseases and disorders. Many types of research studies exist. For example, clinical trials test new medicines or devices. Other studies use interviews or surveys to understand health or behavior.

WHY ARE RESEARCH STUDIES IMPORTANT?

Research studies are important because they contribute to knowledge and progress on diseases and disorders. Research is the fastest and safest way to find treatments that work. That’s why the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC have created the Research Participant Registry.

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH PARTICIPANT REGISTRY?

The Research Participant Registry is a voluntary database of people who are willing to consider participation in research studies and share their medical records for the purposes of advancing research and medical care. Its goal is to bring the advancements of medical research faster, and more directly to those who can benefit. The Research Participant Registry is a joint effort between the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC.

WHAT TYPES OF PARTICIPANTS ARE NEEDED?

Research studies need participants of all ages, genders, races, and ethnic groups. Some studies need healthy participants, while other studies need people with specific health problems.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

- to learn about ways to possibly improve your health
- to help in the evaluation of medications, tests, or programs that may not be available outside of research
- to potentially help others
- to further knowledge of scientific research and medical care
WHAT HAPPENS ONCE I JOIN?

Once you sign up for the Community Research Participant Registry you will begin to receive:

• a quarterly newsletter that describes research study findings and details of the research process
• a list of research studies that you may consider joining

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Your participation is completely voluntary and confidential. The University of Pittsburgh and UPMC use extensive methods to ensure the privacy of your information. The Federal government has regulations and policies to protect the rights and safety of all research participants. Before taking part in any study, you will receive complete information about the research. You will have to give your informed consent before participating. You may choose not to participate in a study and may leave any study at any time and for any reason. You may also choose at any time to discontinue your participation in the Registry. These decisions will not affect the health care you receive from your provider.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

To find out more about the Research Participant Registry, medical research, or to withdraw from the Registry, please contact us at:

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