Greater Manchester Cancer Academy

NHS Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance

# Myth Busting

## Joining a clinical trial doesn't mean being a 'guinea pig'

**Clinical trials are designed with patient safety at their core - they follow strict guidelines, are closely monitored, and ensure patients receive safe, carefully managed care while new treatments are being tested.**

**How you might support a patient with concerns:**
"Trials are built around people, not experiments, safety and support guide every step."

## Clinical trials are not a last resort

**Clinical trials are offered at many different stages of treatment and offer access to new and promising treatments. For many patients, a trial is an opportunity to explore additional approaches that may improve outcomes.**

**How you might support a patient with concerns:**
"Trials can bring new hope and options, whatever stage of care you're in."

"Every trial is a chance to explore better care, not just a final step."

## Cancer research doesn't just happen in laboratories

**While labs are vital to research and lots of research starts in the lab, cancer research also supports real patients through clinical trials, where new treatments and approaches are tested to improve care and survival.**

**How you might support a patient with concerns:**
"The science begins in the lab, but trials and its purpose is people, aiming to make care better."

## Clinical trials happen in all different types of hospitals

**You don't need to be treated at a major cancer hospital to join a trial. Many local clinics and hospitals also offer them, making it easier for people to access research opportunities closer to home.**

**How you might support a patient with concerns:**
"You don't always have to travel far to be part of progress, trials take place closer to home than you might think."

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