

Support Services for Clinical Trial Participants

Helping care for patients' physical, mental and spiritual needs as they help us discover new cancer treatments



Taking Part in Discovering Tomorrow's Treatments Today

It takes patients working together with doctors and researchers to discover new and better cancer treatments. It takes patients willing to participate in clinical trials.

A clinical trial is a research study using volunteers to test promising new drugs and devices to find better ways for preventing, diagnosing or treating diseases. Millions of patients have taken part in clinical trials, and today's cancer treatments were tested this way.



Cancer patients considering participation in a clinical trial should think about it carefully and discuss it in detail with their medical team to understand the potential benefits and risks. Those who participate in clinical trials get first access to the latest, cutting-edge cancer therapies, medical devices or treatment approaches. They also play an active role in turning new discoveries into improved health care, and they contribute to medical knowledge that may help others in the future. Clinical trial participants receive expert health care, including close monitoring over their health and side effects during the trial. Participants can also leave the trial at any time for any reason.

VCU Massey Cancer Center is designated by the National Cancer Institute to conduct clinical trials to lead the nation's fight against cancer. Massey offers more than 100 trials on more than 20 types of cancers to evaluate the latest cancer therapies for adult and pediatric patients. More information about clinical trials at Massey, including a list of all open trials, is available at www.masseytrials.com.

Dedicated Support Staff

Participating in a clinical trial may involve longer or additional clinic or hospital visits. To help patients who wish to participate, VCU Massey has dedicated staff available to assist them in receiving the resources and personal care they need as they undergo their clinical trial cancer treatment. By connecting clinical trial participants to a variety of support services such as financial, legal and psychological assistance, Massey better ensures that each patient's mental, physical and spiritual needs are met while his or her cancer is being treated.

Contact the Clinical Research Support Services staff for assistance:

Debbie L. Cadet, Ph.D., M.S.W.
clinical research recruitment liaison
804-628-2364

Connie Macaluso, L.C.S.W., N.C.C.
clinical research social worker
804-628-2106

Amy Sommers, B.B.A., C.B.P.
insurance coordinator
804-828-9106

Support Services for Clinical Trial Participants

Massey's dedicated staff can help connect patients with a variety of services and support available at VCU Medical Center and throughout the community, including but not limited to the following:

■ Child care resources and referral

■ Complementary/holistic therapies

- Art therapy
- Music therapy
- Healing touch
- Pet therapy

■ Elder care services

■ Fertility referrals

■ Financial assistance programs

- Limited financial assistance to those who qualify
- Co-pay assistance programs
- Help with applying for public benefits

■ Hair loss – Massey's Magical Touch Salon

- Wigs
- Scarves
- Hats
- Turbans

■ Healing garden – Becky's Garden

■ Home care and hospice services

■ Insurance coverage/authorization consultation

■ Legal assistance – Medical Legal Partnership

- LINC (Legal Information Network for Cancer)
- Central Virginia Legal Aid
- Legal Aid Justice Center

■ Nutrition information and guidance

■ Palliative care – symptom and pain management

■ Patient resource library

- Informational materials about cancer, including brochures, pamphlets, books, DVDs and more

■ Patient volunteers/advocates

■ Smoking cessation groups

■ Support counseling

- Chaplaincy, spiritual support
- Psychological therapy

■ Support groups, both for patients and for their family and friends

- *Look Good...Feel Better* workshop
- Connection to other national and local support organizations

■ Temporary lodging

■ Transportation services



Becky's Garden

Every Day, A New Discovery.®



VCU Massey Cancer Center is one of only 66 institutions in the country designated by the National Cancer Institute to lead and shape America's cancer research efforts. Working with all kinds of cancers, the Center conducts basic, translational and clinical cancer research, provides state-of-the-art treatments and clinical trials, and promotes cancer prevention and education. Since 1974, Massey has served as an internationally recognized center of excellence. It has one of the largest offerings of clinical trials in Virginia and serves patients in Richmond and in four satellite locations. Its 1,000 researchers, clinicians and staff members are dedicated to improving the quality of human life by developing and delivering effective means to prevent, control and ultimately cure cancer.



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