

Key Questions to Ask a Researcher

Here are some key questions that experts recommend you ask a researcher before joining any study, whether it involves an interview, focus group, a study of a new program, or a clinical trial.

1. **What is the main purpose of the study?**
2. **What will I be asked to do during the study?**
3. **How will I benefit from participating in this study?**
4. **What are the possible risks?**
5. **How will the results be shared?**
6. **How will my personal information be kept confidential?**
7. **How long is the study going to last?**
8. **Are there any reimbursements or incentives offered?**
9. **Who is funding the study?**
10. **What are the credentials of the researcher and the researcher's institution?**

In addition, if you are considering a clinical trial, here are some additional questions:

If I am asked to take a drug or treatment, how will it be given to me (pill, injection, surgically)?
Do I have to pay for any part of the study? Will my insurance cover these costs?
If the treatment works, can I keep using it after the study has ended?
If I have a bad reaction to the treatment, how can I get medical care?
Will I receive any follow-up care after the trial is over?

Finally, here are some general tips and suggestions to help you during the informed consent process:

Consider bringing a family member or friend along.
Ask questions whenever you need more information.
Do not hesitate to ask if something is unclear.
Bring a list of questions with you that you would like answered.
Write down the answers so you can review them later.
Ask if you can record the conversation.
Take time to make your decision.