



*Christopher McEvelly undergoing treatment on a Clinical Trial at Galway University Hospital*

## Who We Are

### About Us

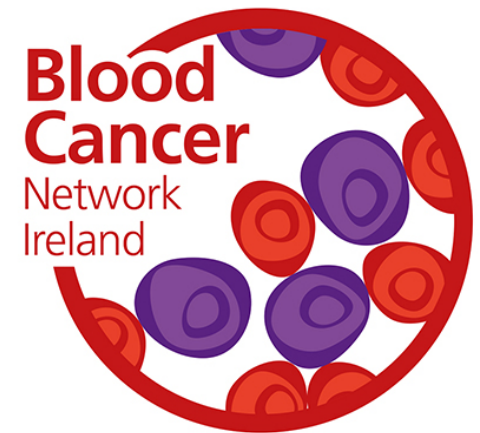
Blood Cancer Network Ireland (BCNI) is a collaborative group of doctors and scientists based in Galway, Cork and Dublin that have come together with the aim of increasing our understanding of blood cancers and developing new treatments for this disease.

### Contact Us

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### PATIENTS COMMENTS

"I saw the clinical trial as an opportunity to get better quickly and because it allowed me access to drugs that I would not have access to otherwise".

"The experience of being involved in a clinical trial has been very positive. Each and every team member, including all of the doctors and nurses, has been wonderful".

"Without a doubt, I would do it again and by all means if anybody were to get the opportunity I'd tell them to grab it with both hands and thank God"



### TAKING PART IN A CLINICAL TRIAL

[www.bloodcancers.ie](http://www.bloodcancers.ie)

[BCNI@nuigalway.ie](mailto:BCNI@nuigalway.ie)

**TAKING PART  
IN A CLINICAL  
TRIAL**

*Information for Patients*

# Introduction

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with a blood cancer you may be interested in learning more about what it means to take part in a clinical trial.

This leaflet will help you to understand what is involved and how to take the next steps in learning more about the clinical trials offered by Blood Cancer Network Ireland (BCNI).

## WHAT IS A CLINICAL TRIAL?

A clinical trial is a research study involving patients that explores whether a treatment is safe and effective.

A trial may be set up to look at new drugs or to look at different ways of using existing treatments.

## WHY ARE CLINICAL TRIALS IMPORTANT?

Clinical trials are vital for making sure scientific breakthroughs discovered in the lab result in new treatments for patients. Without clinical trials new treatments cannot be fully developed. Clinical trials also help researchers decide if the side effects of a new treatment are acceptable when compared to the benefits of the new treatment.

## HOW DO CLINICAL TRIALS WORK?

There are different phases of clinical trials each of which is designed to answer a specific research question.

**Phase I trials** are where researchers test out a new drug or treatment in a small group of people. The goal of clinical trials in this

phase is to look at safety, determine a safe dose, and identify any side effects.

**Phase II trials** include a larger number of people and aim to see if the treatment or drug works and to further evaluate the safety.

**Phase III trials** include an even larger number of people and the goal is to confirm the effectiveness, monitor the side effects further, and compare it to commonly used treatments or drugs.

**Phase IV trials** are done after the drug or treatment has been marketed. These trials gather information on the effect of the treatment or drug in various populations and continue to assess side effects associated with long-term use.

Strict rules are in place for clinical trials - an ethics body reviews the procedure prior to any patients enrolling on the trial to ensure the safety of the patients is the number one priority.

Confidentiality is important - only the individual patient and the researchers know the personal identity and medical information of clinical trial participant.

Some studies involve treatments that may directly benefit participants. Other studies may not directly benefit participants, but the information they provide may be of benefit to patients in the future.

## HOW MIGHT YOU BENEFIT FROM TAKING PART IN A CLINICAL TRIAL?

Patients on clinical trials may have access to new drugs and therapies that might not be



*Patient Paul Daly with BCNI director Prof Michael O'Dwyer, Consultant Hematologist, Galway University Hospital*

available as a standard treatment option. Clinical trials offer the chance to try new or alternative treatments when a patient may not have responded to a conventional treatment.

## WHY IS THIS CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK SO IMPORTANT?

Around 1,600 people are diagnosed with a blood cancer every year in Ireland and about 700 people die from this disease. Blood cancers account for about 10% of all cancers.

The BCNI has very skilled doctors and staff, who are expert at setting up and running early phase clinical trials. This will give patients the opportunity to take part in a clinical trial and make sure that promising new treatments reach patients more quickly.

## HOW CAN YOU TAKE PART IN A CLINICAL TRIAL?

If you meet the criteria for a specific clinical trial you may be able to take part either at your current hospital or another hospital.

Please ask your doctor for information or contact us at [BCNI@nuigalway.ie](mailto:BCNI@nuigalway.ie) or see us at [www.bloodcancers.ie](http://www.bloodcancers.ie)