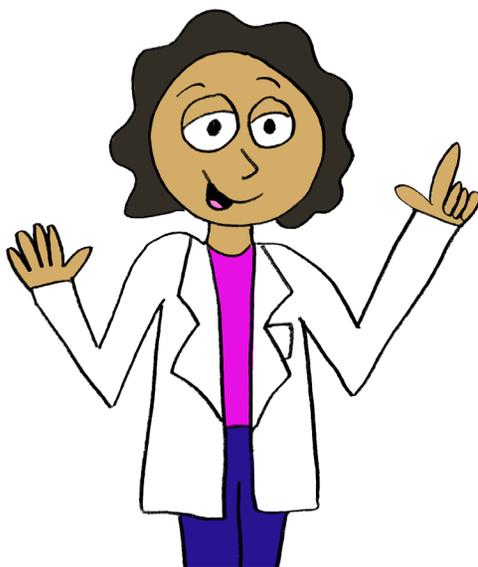


“Why bother volunteering for a research study?”

Facts about participating in clinical trials at Baystate Health



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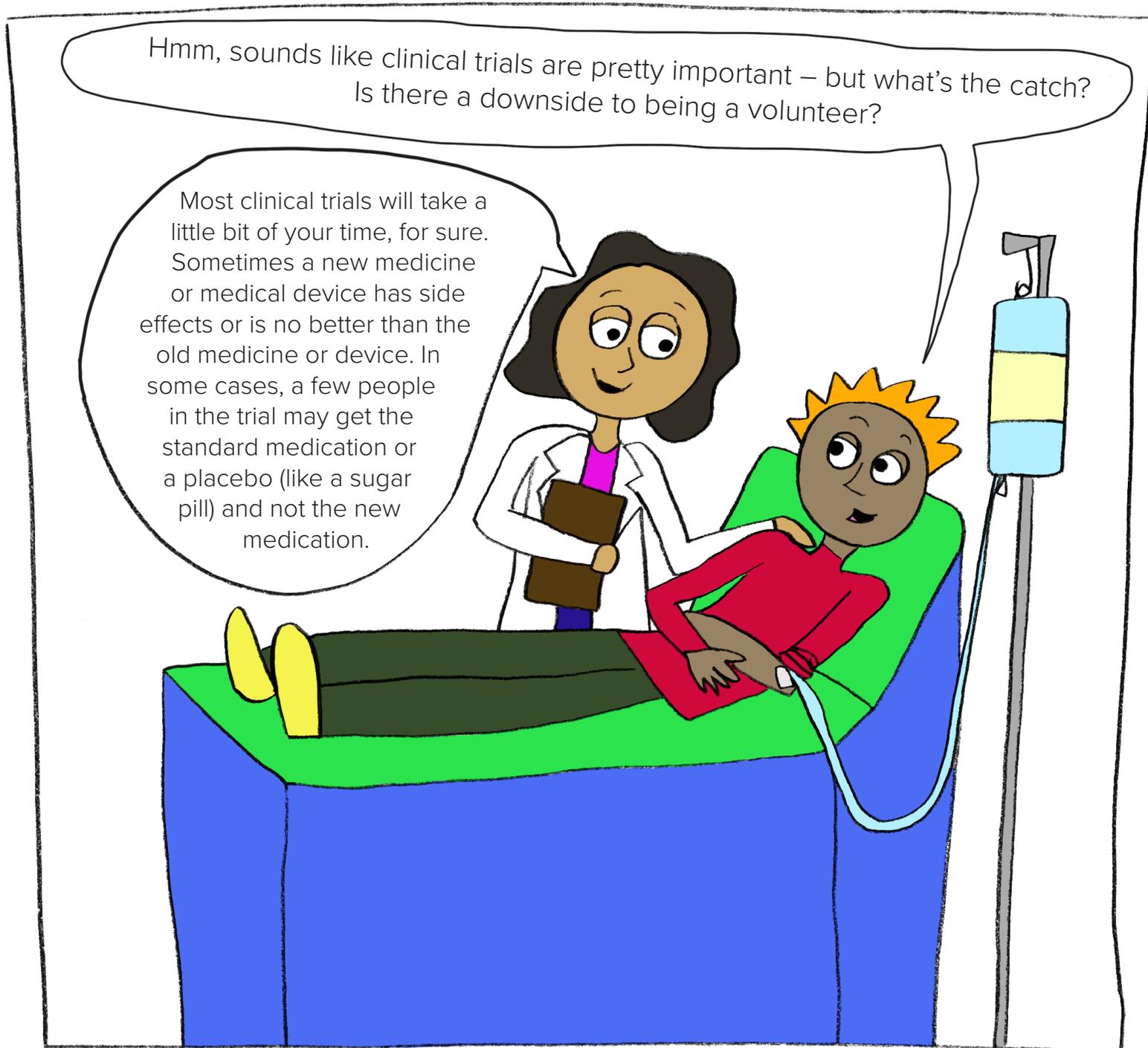
Why does Baystate Health do clinical trials?

Clinical trials are a type of research. In a clinical trial, real people like you and me volunteer to be part of a study to help answer important medical questions. Baystate Health conducts clinical trials for lots of reasons – like to study new therapies or medications and make sure they're available to patients in western Mass.



Hmm, sounds like clinical trials are pretty important – but what's the catch?
Is there a downside to being a volunteer?

Most clinical trials will take a little bit of your time, for sure. Sometimes a new medicine or medical device has side effects or is no better than the old medicine or device. In some cases, a few people in the trial may get the standard medication or a placebo (like a sugar pill) and not the new medication.







Ok, I get it, so should I do it?

Each clinical trial is different. You can ask the researchers for the clinical trial lots of questions before you decide. Remember, you're the volunteer...it's up to you!

Here are some additional facts to consider:



Although clinical trials study experimental treatments, they are being tested because the researchers think there is a reasonable chance that the new treatment will be better than the current treatment.

Study participants contribute to science, yes, but also have the potential to be the first to receive new treatments.

Many people are watching this research to make sure it is performed in an ethical and safe manner.

If you have any questions about clinical trials at BaystateHealth, please contact the Clinical Trials Office at 413-794-6690 or email CTO.staff@baystatehealth.org.



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