

tele*trial*

CONNECTED CARE



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AlfredHealth

TrialHub

Australian Teletrial Program
Access to clinical trials, closer to home



Cancer
Council

tele*trial*

Connected care close to home

Clinical trials have typically only been available at major city hospitals. That has now changed thanks to a new concept called a teletrial.

You may like to see what's available at your local hospital.

What is a *clinical trial*?

A clinical trial is a research study where people can volunteer to try new treatments, devices or tests to help prevent, detect, treat or manage diseases or medical conditions.

Clinical trials help to determine if a new treatment works and if it is better than what's already available. In some cases, it can save your life.



What is a *teletrial*?

A teletrial is where hospitals – regional, rural or city - share a clinical trial and work together to deliver it to their patients all at the same time.

This means, for example, you may be on the same trial at your local hospital at the same time as someone 200km away at their local hospital.

The entire medical team involved in the one trial use digital communication, such as video conferencing, to closely communicate with each other as one big team.

This means you may now have more opportunities to go on a clinical trial at your nearest hospital.

How does it *work*?

There are many medical staff and researchers involved in a teletrial.

The roles and responsibilities at each hospital are divided up and allocated between each hospital.

They are in close contact with each other through digital communication and work together as one big team.

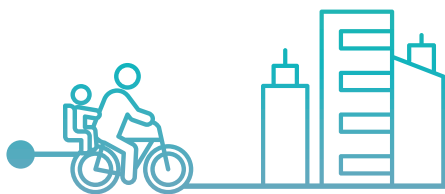
This means you are able to have most, if not all, of your treatment and appointments at your local hospital.

Depending on the complexity of your teletrial, you may have to travel to one of the other hospitals from time-to-time for certain things such as speciality scans or blood tests.



Will all trials at my *local hospital* be a teletrial?

No, it depends on the technical complexity of the trial. Some will be and some won't be.



Will I notice a difference *if I'm on a teletrial?*

There will be no difference to your care or the way the trial is conducted at your local hospital.

Most of your appointments will be at your local hospital, unless you are required to travel to another hospital for something else.

Ask your team at the beginning what your appointments might look like so you can plan ahead.

What's the difference between a *teletrial* and *telehealth*?

You are probably now very familiar with telehealth through COVID-19 and having your appointments, such as GP or allied health, at home via phone or video.

The 'tele' in teletrials refers to the digital communication between your local team and the teams at other hospitals. Your appointments will still be onsite at your local hospital, but you may join video consultations between your team and staff at the other hospitals.

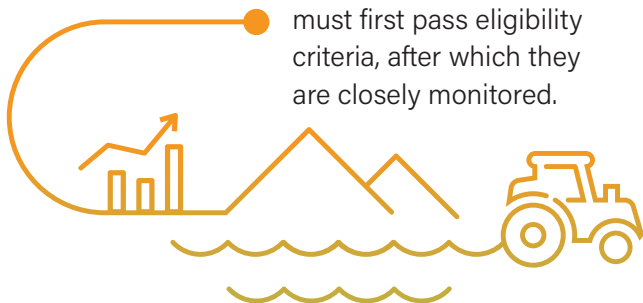
Do I need the latest digital technology *at home*?

No, your appointments will be face-to-face at your local hospital. You won't have video appointments at home as part of a teletrial.

Is it *safe*?

Australian teletrials and clinical trials have some of the strongest guidelines in the world and is tightly regulated.

They run under strict protocols and participants must first pass eligibility criteria, after which they are closely monitored.



World-first treatment *close to home*

Marilyn, from country Victoria, was diagnosed with cancer after tests revealed tumours throughout her body.

She lives 270km from Melbourne and 35km from her local hospital. Clinical trials and teletrials recently opened for the first time at her local hospital. Doctors were unable to pinpoint how her cancer was caused and she was told it would not respond to chemotherapy or radiation. She was asked if she was willing to take part in a clinical trial to gain access to the latest treatment not yet available to the general public.

The trial is being conducted alongside hospitals in Australia. ***“The team explained the trial to me really thoroughly. The support I’ve had is great, the staff are fantastic.”***

Meanwhile, Marilyn is still able to go about her daily business, be close to her friends and family, and is even planning an overseas trip. ***“When battling cancer, being closer to home and loved ones during the entire treatment journey is invaluable.”***

For more information:
visit cancer.org.au to access
‘Understanding Clinicals Trials and Research’ or go to your local hospital’s
website and search **‘clinical trials’**