Questions to Consider Before Volunteering to Be in a Study

- What’s the condition being studied?
- What is the main purpose of the study?
  - Why is this study being done?
  - Why is it important?
  - Why is the study needed and what important questions will it answer?
- If this is a clinical trial, what phase is it?
- Why do researchers believe the treatment being tested may be effective?
  - Has it been tested before?
  - What were the results of earlier studies of this treatment?
  - How likely are those results to apply to me?
- What treatments will I receive during the study?
  - How do they compare with what I would receive if I don’t join the study?
  - What alternatives are available to me?
  - Will I know what treatment I am receiving?
    - Will my doctor know?
    - Is there a placebo in this study?
- How could the study treatment affect my daily life?
- What kind of tests and procedures will be done to me during this study?
  - How often?
  - Will I have to be hospitalized for any of the tests, procedures or treatments?
- Who can be in the study?
- How long will the study last?
- What will happen to my samples (blood, tissue, etc.) that you collect for the study?
- What are the possible short- and long-term risks, side effects I might experience?
  - How do they compare with standard treatment?
- What are the possible benefits of participation?
- Are there reasons the study might be stopped early?
  - Are there reasons I might be removed from the study?
- Will I be able to see my own doctor?
  - Who will be in charge of my care?
- Will this study require extra time or travel from me?
- Who is sponsoring the study?
- Will I have to pay for any part of the study?
  - Will I be paid for participating?
- What will my health insurance cover?
- How will you protect my privacy and the confidentiality of my health and research records?
- What happens if I become sick while participating in the study?
- Can I choose to remain on this treatment after the study is over?
- How are the study data and patient safety being monitored?
- When and where will study results and information go?
- Will you tell me about my personal results?
- Will you tell me the overall study results when it is completed?
- How long do I have to decide whether or not I want to participate?