

# BECOMING A RESEARCH VOLUNTEER:

## IT'S YOUR DECISION

### What Is Research?

- f* Research is a study that is done to answer a question.
- f* Scientists do research because they don't know for sure what works best to help you.
- f* Some other words that describe research are clinical trial, protocol, survey, or experiment.
- f* Research is not the same as treatment.

### Why Is Research Important?

Research has led to important discoveries that make our lives better. Some examples are:

- f* New drugs to treat cancer, diabetes, and other diseases
- f* Ultrasound, X-ray machines, and diagnostic tests
- f* Vaccines
- f* Ways to stop smoking
- f* Improved medical procedures

### Points to Consider

- f* A research study may or may not help you personally.
- f* In the future, the results could help others who have a health problem.
- f* Taking part in research is voluntary.

Someday, you or a family member may want to take part in a research study. If this happens, the information here may help you make the right decision.

### Questions to Ask

- f* What exactly will happen to me in the research?
- f* Will there be any unpleasant side effects?
- f* Will the research help me personally?
- f* What other options do I have?
- f* Can I leave the study at any time?
- f* Will it cost me anything personally?

Research discoveries can improve people's health.

Before you decide to become a research volunteer, get the facts:

- f* Know what you're getting into.
- f* Ask questions.
- f* Learn as much as you can.
- f* Know the pros and cons.