Basic Information for Clinical Nurses Caring for Patients Enrolled in a Research Study

In addition to direct patient care responsibilities, clinical nurses may collaborate with inter-professional research teams to implement research protocols. The clinical nurse’s contribution may include screening for eligible patients, performing study procedures, administering study medications, collecting study data, and monitoring for adverse events.

Below are several questions clinical nurses should consider asking the Principal Investigator or study coordinator when caring for patients who are currently enrolled in a research study.

1. How do I know my patient is in a research study?
2. Do we have informed consent from the patient for participation in the study? Where is the informed consent located?
3. Where can I access the study protocol?
4. What specific study procedures (including medication) are required to be performed or administered by the primary clinical nurse? Are these study procedures time-sensitive?
5. What specific study procedures (including medication) are required to be performed or administered by the research staff? Are these study procedures time-sensitive?
6. What are the potential side effects of patient participation in the study?
7. Will the investigator or research staff (e.g. those obtaining informed consents or performing study procedures) be instructed to communicate with nursing staff prior to approaching patients?
8. Who do I contact if I have any questions? Is the investigator’s contact name correct in CareConnect?