

# Myeloma Matrix 2.0: Smart Search

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) lists thousands of clinical trials on its [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov) database. Navigating that enormous repository to find a study that best meets your needs can be challenging.

The IMF's *Myeloma Matrix*, designed to track drugs in development for myeloma, is now **Myeloma Matrix 2.0: Smart Search**, a clinical trial search tool developed by the IMF and Smart Patients. *Myeloma Matrix 2.0* uses up-to-the-minute data from [cancer.gov](http://cancer.gov) and makes it possible to search for a clinical trial by the following criteria:

- by drug name
- by drug type
- by trial phase
- by where you are in the disease process
  - newly diagnosed
  - smoldering myeloma
  - maintenance therapy
  - relapsed/refractory

Another important feature of *Myeloma Matrix 2.0* is its ability to create a pathway for conversations among patients participating in a specific trial. Because the database is updated continually, patients don't have to worry about missing deadlines and being too late to be considered for a trial.

*Myeloma Matrix 2.0* makes the search for a clinical trial as worry-free for patients and caregivers as possible.

Visit [myeloma.org/matrix](http://myeloma.org/matrix)



Smart Patients

The IMF InfoLine is staffed by trained information specialists.

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# ***Understanding Clinical Trials***

Clinical trials are research studies of that involve patients. In any disease setting, clinical trials are a vital part of moving science forward. Without clinical trials, new concepts – whether new drugs or new ways of combining old drugs – could not be tested and validated. Clinical trials also help answer scientific questions, determine which dosages of drugs are effective and well tolerated, compare the relative benefits of different therapies, identify potential negative side effects, and improve quality of life.

Whether or not to participate in a clinical trial is one of the critical decisions you and your oncologist may have to make at some point in the cancer care continuum. Participation may offer an opportunity for patients to receive treatment with a promising therapy before it has been approved, afford access to a therapy that would otherwise be too expensive, and provide high-quality care while helping move research forward for the benefit of other patients now and in the future.

The IMF's ***Understanding Clinical Trials*** booklet, available online at [myeloma.org/pdfs/U-ClinicalTrials.pdf](https://myeloma.org/pdfs/U-ClinicalTrials.pdf) or by mail, will help you discuss your options knowledgeably with your oncologist when you are making treatment decisions. The booklet includes the following topics:

- What are the phases of a clinical trial?
- What is informed consent?
- How can clinical trials change and improve patient survival?
- When is the right time to participate in clinical trials?
- What does “eligibility criteria” mean?
- Will insurance cover clinical trials?
- How do I know if I am responding to the therapy in a clinical trial?

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