

To Our Patients,

We recently introduced Clinical Research as a care option for delivery of healthcare to our patients. Many of you may be asking why?

When I graduated Medical School in 1983, my medical advisor was one of the first to congratulate me. He then told me that while I had earned my medical degree, all I really had was a foundation for learning and that if I wanted to be a good physician my journey had just begun. To be a good physician, I needed to maintain a desire to continue to learn.

Over my 35 years of practice, I have seen astounding advances in medicine. Heart valve and other complex surgeries can now be done percutaneously. When I graduated medical school, no one would have considered doing one of these complex procedures on someone in their 80's, and yet now this is routine. We have developed innovative and life changing treatment options for asthma. Rheumatoid arthritis no longer causes deformity. We can now treat disease with less side effects as medications are more specifically targeted. Previously terminal illnesses such as lung cancer, lymphoma, HIV and multiple myeloma can be controlled. We have seen a new generation of vaccines alter the course of a pandemic. We are truly in a medical renaissance and none of this would have been possible without clinical research.

While these advances are fascinating and extremely exciting, the cornerstone of medicine will always be the relationships and trust that we build with our patients. This will always come first. The studies that we participate in are reviewed and approved by a panel of physicians. Our first goal is to pick studies that we believe will allow us to improve the quality of care of our patients. Generally, we only participate in Phase III studies. Phase III studies are the last stage of clinical development before FDA approval. That means we have a good idea of the drug efficacy and possible side effects.

We partner with a research organization called [Javara](#) to provide the infrastructure necessary to participate in clinical trials. [Privia's Notice of Privacy Practices](#) describe how your data may be shared with our trusted partners for research purposes. We want to make sure that all of our patients are aware of this. Clinical trial participation is always 100% voluntary and your medical care will not be impacted if you choose not to participate. **If you are contacted about a clinical trial by our partners and would not like to be contacted, please let the caller know and you will not be contacted again.**

At our practice, we have participated in a number of studies that have had a profound impact on our patients and we are extremely proud. Patients who have participated have provided overwhelmingly positive feedback about their experiences. You can learn more about the types of studies that are available at [www.research.myprivia.com](http://www.research.myprivia.com).

If you have further questions, please feel contact our research team at [clinicalresearch@priviahealth.com](mailto:clinicalresearch@priviahealth.com).

Respectfully,

Richard Bernstein M.D. F.C.C.P.

*Medical Director Privia Clinical Research*