



Clinical Trials in Canada and Abroad:

Cost Considerations for Canadians

While every clinical trial is unique, the table below outlines general differences Canadians may encounter when considering participation inside versus outside of Canada.

Consideration	Clinical Trials in Canada	Clinical Trials Outside of Canada (e.g. US)
Investigational Treatment	Typically covered by the trial sponsor	Typically covered by the trial sponsor
Research-Related Tests & Visits	Covered by the trial sponsor	Covered by the trial sponsor
Routine Medical Care (e.g. appointments, imaging, prescriptions)	Usually billed through provincial health coverage or private insurance	May not be covered by Canadian provincial health plans; patients may need private insurance or pay out-of-pocket depending on the situation
Initial Consultation Fees	Usually covered under provincial health coverage	May require out-of-pocket payment; costs vary by institution
Emergency or Non-Trial Care	Covered through provincial health care	May not be covered outside Canada without travel insurance or special arrangements
Travel & Accommodation	May be required if trial is outside home city/province; support programs may be available. Sometimes reimbursed (varies by trial)	Often required; international travel and extended stays can increase costs. Sometimes reimbursed (varies by trial)
Insurance Requirements	Insurance not strictly required, but provincial coverage for standard care is necessary	Insurance and payment policies vary; upfront payment may be required
Financial Assistance	Hospital social workers and financial counsellors may help access travel or support programs	Some institutions offer financial assistance or grants; availability varies
Care Coordination	Managed within Canadian health system	Requires coordination between international trial site and your local care team

Note: Every situation is different. Before enrolling in any clinical trial, it is important to speak directly with the research team to understand what is covered, what costs may be your responsibility, and what financial supports may be available.