

Understanding Eligibility Criteria in Clinical Trials



Eligibility criteria are the rules researchers use to decide who can join a clinical trial. Think of them as a checklist to make sure a study is safe and appropriate for each participant.

Why Do Clinical Trials Have Eligibility Criteria?

- To protect patient safety
- To test the treatment in the right group of people
- To make sure study results are accurate and meaningful

What are Common Eligibility Factors?

- Type and stage of cancer
- Biomarker or genetic mutation status (EGFR, ALK, KRAS, PD-L1, etc.)
- Previous treatments received
- Overall health and organ function
- Recent timing of treatments or disease progression

Example of Eligibility Criteria in Clinical Trials

Trial: A New Targeted Therapy for EGFR-Positive Stage IV Lung Cancer

To qualify, you must:

- Have Stage IV non-small cell lung cancer
- Have an EGFR mutation
- Have received at least one prior EGFR treatment
- Have stable brain metastases (if present)
- Have adequate liver and kidney function

You may not qualify if:

- You have uncontrolled heart disease
- You received chemotherapy within the last 2 weeks
- Your cancer does not have an EGFR mutation

Important Reminder

Not qualifying for one trial does NOT mean you are out of options. It simply means that specific study is not the right fit. There may be other trials available now or opening soon.