What Generally Qualifies Someone for an Alzheimer’s Research Study?

- **Relatively Good Health.** This means, patients can’t have a disease that isn’t controlled. They can have high blood pressure and diabetes, if it’s controlled and stable. If they’ve had cancer, it cannot have been active for 5 years. If you’ve had a heart attack, it needs to be more than one year ago. We will collect a medical history and perform a physical exam at the clinic, to assess general health.

- **Other Brain Disease are Excluded.** This means that if the patient has Parkinson’s disease, Bipolar disorder, Schizophrenia, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), or a Stroke (basically anything other than Alzheimer’s that would affect their brain and memory), they do not qualify. We are specifically studying Alzheimer’s disease and other diseases that affect the brain may skew the study data.

- **Drug Abuse is Excluded.** A drug test will be performed at screening.

- **A Study Partner or Caregiver is required.** This is someone who knows the participant extremely well and usually spends 10 hours a week with them. A spouse, child and best friend are ideal. The Study Partner will be asked a lot of questions about the person’s life to verify how well they know them. If they don’t know the basics about the participant, they are disqualified as the Study Partner. The reason for the Study Partner is that physicians need someone who knows the participant extremely well to be able to report how the person’s memory is doing. Is it getting better, worse, or staying the same? This is vital to Alzheimer’s research. If you know someone who is a “lone” and doesn’t have friends or family, they are NOT a good fit to come to the clinic to be screened for an Alzheimer’s trial.

### Stages of Memory Loss

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age-Associated Memory Impairment</th>
<th>Refers to normal memory loss due to aging.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mild Cognitive Impairment</strong></td>
<td>Memory changes that are serious enough to be noticed by the individuals experiencing them or sometimes to other people, but the changes are not severe enough to interfere with daily life or independent function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alzheimer’s Disease</strong></td>
<td>Serious memory loss that is severe enough to interfere with daily life and independent function</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At **Great Lakes Clinical Trials**, all research studies are at no cost to our research participants. We do not collect insurance cards or perform any billing activities. We may also provide free transportation to and from the clinic, based on need. Patients will be paid a stipend for participating - the amounts vary depending on each study.

Great Lakes Clinical Trials

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As a community-based, independent research clinic, **Great Lakes Clinical Trials** is committed to bringing research to those most affected by Alzheimer’s disease.

Our team is led by internationally-recognized, board-certified neurologists, psychiatrists, and neuropsychologists who specialize in studying new treatments and caring for the unique needs of the Chicago area Alzheimer’s community.

All services are provided at no cost.
5 Things You May Not Know About Alzheimer's

1. It's a deadly disease. Alzheimer’s is the third deadliest disease in the U.S. and the only one of the top ten which does not have a cure, prevention or any way to slow down its progression.

2. Alzheimer's disease is not a part of normal aging.

3. Family history increases your chances of developing the disease.

4. Alzheimer's disease can start developing in your brain in your 30s and 40s, long before the symptoms of memory loss begin.

5. African American women are 2.5 times more likely to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

PET Scans

People with Alzheimer's disease have a build up of amyloid plaques in their brain. Up until a few years ago, we could only see these through autopsy and using a microscope after the patients pass away. Recent advances in technology now allows us to perform non-invasive brain scans called PET Scans, to view these plaques while patients are still alive. This is important because plaques can build up years before any memory problems start to appear.

The theory behind many Alzheimer's trials, is that older adults who have plaques in their brain, are significantly more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease in the coming years. Medications are being developed and tested to hopefully break up those plaques BEFORE significant memory loss starts to take hold and therefore prevent progression to Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's Disease Prevention Studies

These are studies for older adults who still have relatively good memory. Prevention studies have a longer screening period, lasting up to 3 months, during which time our clinicians assess whether the participants are at greater risk for progressing to Alzheimer's disease. After having a PET Scan, if a participant has no increased sign of plaques on their brain, they are not eligible to continue in the trial. Only those patients with an elevated level of plaques on their brain are invited to join the trial. There are no big decisions for patients to make until we have the results of their brain scans.

The Early Study
- Ages 60-85
- 5-year long study
- Monthly visits for 1st year, then every 3 months
- Oral Pill
- Stipend available
- EarlyTrial.org

The A4 Study
- Ages 65-85
- 3 year long study
- Monthly visits
- IV Infusion
- Stipend available
- A4Study.org

Mild Cognitive Impairment Studies

These are studies for older adults who are just beginning to lose their memory and it's affecting their daily life. Often times, patients with Mild Cognitive Impairment start experiencing notable memory problems, long before those around them start to notice.

AbbVie Study
- PET Scans - only patients who have elevated levels of plaques, and thus are at elevated risk for progressing to Alzheimer's disease, will be included in this trial.
- Ages 55-85
- 2 year study
- Monthly visits
- IV Infusion
- Stipend available

Vayacog Study
- No PET Scans
- Ages 60-85
- 7 Visits over 2 years
- Medical food product
- Stipend available

Early/Mild Alzheimer's Disease Studies

For those who are already diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease by their physician, taking memory drugs and at the early stages of memory loss.

The Steadfast Study
- PET Scans
- Ages 50 and up
- 18 month study
- 9 visits
- Oral pill
- Stipend available
- SteadfastAlzheimers.com