

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

Trial Phase

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Trial Phase*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C48281.

Clinical trials are broken into three or four phases: Phase I tests a new drug or treatment for safety in a small group; Phase II expands the study to a larger group of people; Phase III expands the study to an even larger group of people to measure whether the treatment actually benefits patients, and whether its benefits exceed its risks; and Phase IV takes place after the drug or treatment has been licensed and marketed.