**Definition of Clinical Research Nursing:**

Clinical Research Nursing is the specialized practice of professional nursing focused on maintaining equilibrium between care of the research participant and fidelity to the research protocol. This specialty practice incorporates human subject protection; care coordination and continuity; contribution to clinical science; clinical practice; and study management throughout a variety of professional roles, practice settings, and clinical specialties.


http://iacrn.memberlodge.org/

The clinical research on CRU represents one of the many collaborations between the UWHC and ICTR to advance research.

**Clinical Research Unit**

Clinical and Translational Research Core

UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research

D6/6 Clinical Science Center

600 Highland Avenue

Madison, WI 53792-6736

(608) 263-7174 Desk

(608) 265-9225 Fax

CRU is a 14 bed inpatient/outpatient unit that provides comprehensive clinical research support and patient care in a collaborative, interprofessional approach with clinical research investigators.
**Did you know?**

- The Clinical Research Unit (CRU) provides research study support and care to patients participating in clinical research in all specialties. Some examples are oncology, hematology, asthma/allergy, pulmonary, and endocrinology.

- CRU nurses receive specialized training to safeguard the health of research participants while providing precise data collection on which to base future healthcare treatments.

- Many pharmaceutical studies are conducted on the CRU including:
  - **Phase I studies** (first in human): evaluate safety, determine a safe dose range, and identify side effects.
  - **Phase II studies**: further evaluate safety and determine efficacy.
  - **Phase III studies**: compare treatment of the research drug to current standard of care.

**Prior to volunteering, potential subjects are informed of the following:**

- The purpose of the study
- Benefits that can be expected from participating
- What they will be asked to do
- How long they will be in the study
- Risks involved
- Involvement in the experimental procedures
- Who pays the cost of the treatments if injury occurs
- Who has access to personal study/health information
- What alternative treatments are available
- Who to contact with questions or concerns and how
- The right to withdraw their consent (participation) at any time

---

**Before any participants are enrolled in a clinical research study, an Institutional Review Board (IRB) formally reviews each study for safety (risk vs. benefit) and scientific merit.**

---

**In addition to providing standard of care and research activities, the primary Clinical Research Nurse responsibilities include:**

- Participant baseline assessment and monitoring of physical condition and changes
- Precise adherence to the research treatment regimen
- Research participant education on both standard of care and research activities/medications
- Contribute to the informed consent process
- Facilitate, manage, and gather precise data according to the research protocol

---

**Timeline:**

- **1986**: Original grant award for General Clinical Research Center (GCRC)
- **1987**: GCRC moves to De/6
- **1999**: Unit name changes to Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC)
- **2007**: Unit name changes to Clinical Research Unit (CRU)
- **2008**: Remodeled Unit
- **2016**: Clinical Research Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice published
- **2017**: 30 year celebration!