The Phases of a Clinical Trial

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Understanding the Phases of Clinical Trials

Prescription drugs don't just show up on pharmacy shelves one day. Each one is first subjected to thorough scientific testing during what are known as clinical trials.

Clinical trials are conducted in phases, each of which is designed to assess a treatment or drug's safety as well as answer different questions researchers may have about a drug or treatment. Clinical trial phases range from phase 0 to phase 4.

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