

Daytona Beach clinical research unit

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Facility overview and capabilities

The Fortrea clinical research unit (CRU) in Daytona Beach, Florida, is an 88-bed, purpose-built facility that has conducted early-phase clinical trials since 1993. The CRU recruits healthy participants and special populations, including older adults, participants with obesity, postmenopausal women and smokers.

The CRU supports first-in-human, bioequivalence, bioavailability, pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic, definitive QTc, drug-drug interaction, proof-of-concept, rising-dose and Phase I–II patient studies. The team also has experience designing and conducting studies involving drug delivery devices.

To support complex study designs and advanced analyses, the CRU collects and handles specialty biological samples, including peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs), muscle biopsy tissue and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). Trained staff follow established procedures to maintain sample integrity and meet protocol requirements.

PBMC samples are isolated on-site using validated methods. Cell counts confirm yield and viability before samples are aliquoted into cryovials, cryopreserved using controlled-rate freezing and stored in liquid nitrogen. Shipment in liquid nitrogen dry shippers maintains ultralow temperatures. These procedures support immunophenotyping, pharmacodynamic assessments and evaluation of immune responses over time.

SITE FEATURES

- 88-bed, 40,000-square-foot purpose-built clinical research unit
- 30 high-visibility beds for safety monitoring
- Participant database of more than 27,200 individuals
- Ability to support continuous inpatient stays of 95 days or longer
- Emergency response time of less than five minutes
- Compounding facilities that comply with applicable regulations, including USP <795> and USP <797>
- On-site cGMP pharmacy
- Skin and muscle biopsy capabilities
- Investigator team with more than 30 years of combined Phase I experience



Qualified clinicians collect muscle biopsy samples for immediate processing. Tissue is sectioned and aliquoted as required, then rapidly frozen and stored in liquid nitrogen to preserve structural and molecular integrity. The samples support analyses such as histology and biomarker evaluation, providing insight into drug effects within target tissue.

Experienced staff collect CSF samples via lumbar puncture and process them promptly to minimize degradation. Samples are centrifuged as needed, aliquoted to limit repeated freeze-thaw cycles and stored under controlled frozen conditions. CSF analysis can support the evaluation of central nervous system penetration, pharmacokinetics and neurological biomarkers.

Together, these capabilities generate high-quality, multi-matrix data that can inform clinical development decisions.

Located approximately 50 miles northeast of Orlando and 90 miles south of Jacksonville, the Daytona Beach CRU is near the intersection of Interstate 95 and Interstate 4, supporting participant recruitment across Florida.

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