**How Your Participation in Observational Studies Helps**

***Be a Hero***

Clinical trials are like tests for new treatments, they use an intervention and then measure how it affects a pre-determine endpoint. We all want to see clinical trials for our kiddos, but sometimes we need to do other important studies before those trials, especially when it comes to our kids' health. Parents, this is where you can play a crucial role by taking part in observational studies. These studies usually involve answering questions or talking to researchers. Here's why your help in observational studies is super important:

**Understanding How Treatments Affect People**: We want to know how treatments affect patients in their everyday lives. This includes things like if they take their medicine properly, how well they get better, and if there are any unwanted side effects.

**Possibly Skipping Placebos**: Sometimes, the people who make the rules (the FDA) might say we need a "placebo" group in a trial. That's a group that doesn't get the real treatment. But if we gather enough information from observational studies, we might be able to skip that part and get to helping people faster.

**Spotting Hidden Clues**: Observational studies are like detectives looking for clues. They help us find out if there are things that make a disease worse or better. These clues can be tricky to see without lots of information.

**Understanding Everyone**: Observational research looks at all kinds of people. That means we can learn how a disease affects kids and grown-ups, boys and girls, different races, and people with different amounts of money. This helps us make sure our treatments work for everyone.

**Seeing How Things Really Happen**: In clinical trials, things are controlled, like a movie set. But observational studies are like watching a real-life movie. They show us how the disease behaves in the real world, where things aren't always perfect.

So, parents, your help in these studies is like being a hero in a special mission, and November is our hero month! By taking surveys or talking to researchers, you're helping us understand diseases better and find treatments that work for everyone, especially our kids. You can join in different studies to make a difference.