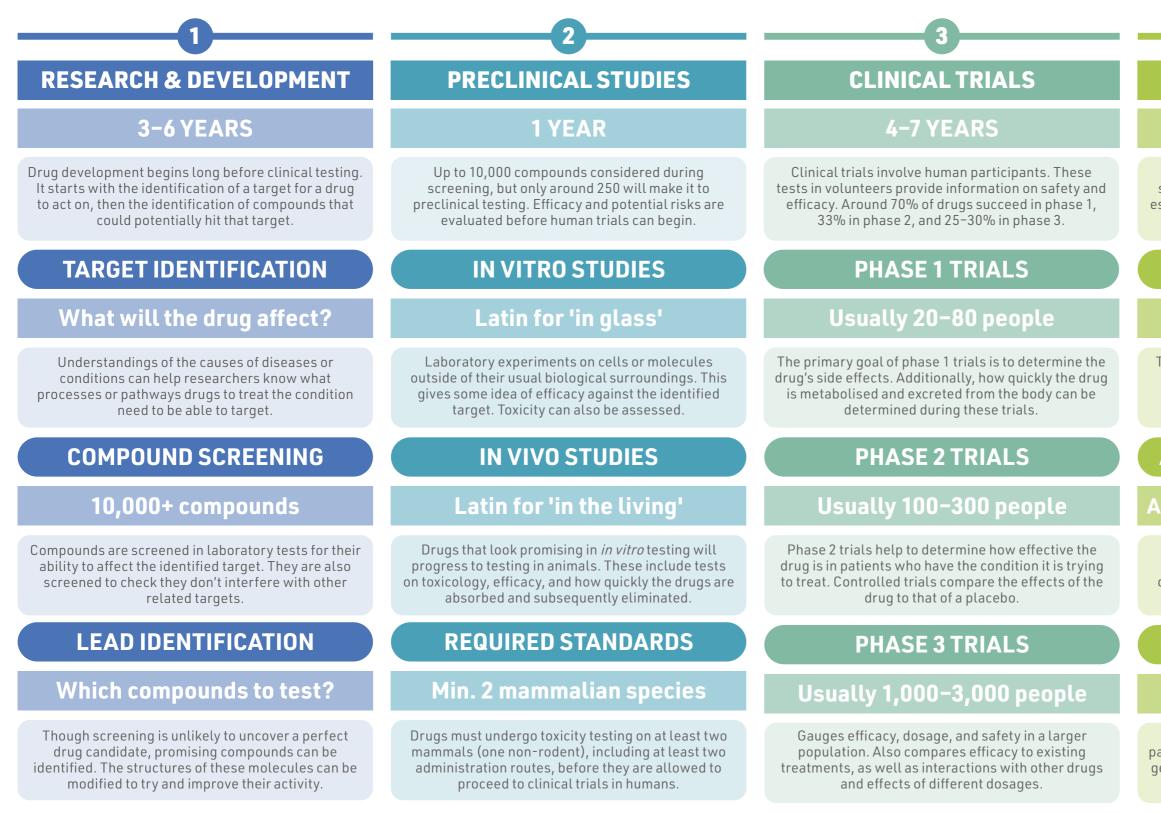
UNDERSTANDING THE DRUG DISCOVERY PROCESS

The process of discovering, testing, and eventually gaining approval for selling a drug is a long and arduous one. Here, we look at the different stages involved, and the approximate length of time that each stage takes, to eventually arrive at an approved drug that can be given to patients.





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REVIEW & APPROVAL

1-2 YEARS

If a drug is deemed effective in clinical trials, it is submitted to regulating bodies to be approved. It's estimated that only around 1 in 5000 drug candidates makes it all the way to approval.

EVALUATION

Evidence from trials

The regulating body reviews the evidence provided by the pharmaceutical company for the drug's efficacy and safety. Drugs offering important advances are given priority.

APPROVAL & MANUFACTURE

Approx. 75% submissions approved

If the benefits of taking the drug are deemed to outweigh its risks, it is approved. The cost of developing a drug that gains marketing approval is estimated to be \$2,558 million.

POST-RELEASE MONITORING

Indefinite duration

After a drug is approved and available for use by patients, it is still monitored for any side effects in the general population that may not have occurred in the drug's clinical trials.



