

Developing Medical Devices

Johnson & Johnson companies are at the cutting edge of research and development into new medical devices that will improve health and reduce medical costs.

Important advances have changed the way coronary artery disease can be treated in some patients. Surgeries that once required significant incisions in the body followed by weeks of recovery may now be performed using minimally invasive surgical tools, and often patients can return home on the same day. Modern implants make it possible for people to run again, not just walk. Contact lenses correct vision, while promoting eye health and comfort. Blood testing meters help people with diabetes manage their disease with less pain. Sophisticated diagnostics discover diseases earlier and extend lives.

Collaborating with Health Professionals

Not surprisingly, many of the best new ideas come from the men and women who deliver care to people. Experienced surgeons, nurses, health care workers, researchers, and engineers have real-world insights into innovative techniques, better equipment, and what may simply work better.

Our companies listen and learn from health care professionals. They then work with them to bring good ideas to fruition. Once an idea for a new medical device or procedure has been approved for testing, “bench top tests” are often initiated. Inanimate models, developed for the specific question at hand, are constructed and used to test the concept. If the new device passes the bench top stage of the research & development process, further pre-clinical testing may follow. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other worldwide regulatory bodies require this research.

Regulatory Review

Data from testing is submitted to regulatory agencies for review and comment. The FDA and other worldwide regulatory agencies set the regulatory path of new devices or diagnostic equipment. They determine whether clinical trials in patients are necessary before approving the new device. They also decide whether special monitoring and reporting of patient experiences with new devices, tools and diagnostics is required.