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**Drug Development Process**

Put the following statements in order to show the drug development process.

Double blind randomised trials involve large numbers of patients. Some are given the new medicine and some a placebo that does nothing at all. Neither the patients nor the people giving them the medicine know which group is which.

The **first clinical trial** is where new medicines are tested on healthy people to make sure there are no unexpected side effects.

Doctors prescribe licensed medicines, but they continue to monitor the effects on patients. This is sometimes called the ‘phase 4’ clinical trial.

**Scientists study** bodies and diseases to see how they work. They try to find **‘targets’** for medicines to aim at. Targets are things that cause diseases such as tiny protein molecules.

Computers and cell samples are used to find chemicals that seem to work on the target. Tens of thousands of known chemicals are tested like this.

If a medicine passes all the clinical trials it can get a licence from the government which means doctors can use it.

The second clinical trial involves a much bigger group of patients, to see if the drug works on the disease it is designed for.

The most promising treatments are tested to see how much is safe and how much is poisonous.

Scientists need to know how quickly and where the body absorbs the chemical and how quickly it flushes it out.