Beacon NSCLC-04

Talking with Your Family

A conversation guide for sharing your decision to join BEACON NSCLC-04.

Before the conversation

Decide what you want your family to know — for example, what the study is, why you are considering it, and what support you may need. Writing a few bullet points beforehand can make the conversation feel less overwhelming.

Choose a good time and place

Pick a quiet, unhurried moment. If distance is a barrier, a scheduled video call often works better than a surprise phone call. For major news, avoid big holidays or stressful days whenever possible.

Leading the conversation

Start by explaining what is happening in your own words. Share why you are considering the trial — the hoped-for benefit, your own questions, and what the study team has told you. Invite questions, and be honest if you don't have all the answers yet.

Common questions to expect

Family members often ask: Is the study safe? What are the side effects? Will you still be able to work, travel, see the grandkids? How is the investigational therapy different from what you're doing now? It is completely fine to say, "Let me get back to you after my next visit."

If someone is upset

People react to medical news in different ways. Some need time. Some want facts and data. Some want to help right away. Let them know you have heard them, and let the conversation continue over several days if needed.

Getting support

Your study site has a social worker, navigator, or research coordinator who can help you think through family conversations. Patient advocacy groups also publish excellent conversation guides tailored to lung cancer.

This is a demonstration document for BEACON NSCLC-04. Sample content — not a substitute for the official study document reviewed with your care team.