

# Care Partner to Doctor Conversation Facilitation Guide

Participating in a clinical trial requires thoughtful consideration and conversations between patients and their doctor, family, and/or care partner to support treatment. Care partners can play a vital role in supporting patients during discussions with their doctor. This guide is designed to help care partners communicate with their loved one's doctor, ensuring comprehensive understanding and active participation in their loved one's cancer care journey. It contains some important topics and questions to ask when discussing the possibility of your loved one participating in a clinical trial. These questions prioritize your role in making informed decisions to ensure their comfort, safety, and quality of life while considering their unique needs.

During discussions with your loved one's physician, we recommend that you **take detailed notes** and **ask for clarification** when needed.

## UNDERSTANDING THE CLINICAL TRIAL

1. What is a clinical trial?
2. What is the goal of this clinical trial, and how may it help my loved one?
3. What do the different phases of clinical trials mean?
4. What phase is this clinical trial in, and what does that mean for my loved one?
5. Who is sponsoring or funding this clinical trial?
6. Has this study treatment been evaluated before (in this disease or other diseases)?
7. How does this study treatment work, and how is it different from other available treatment options?
8. What are the potential benefits and risks or side effects of the study treatment as compared to other available treatment options?
9. What are the potential benefits and risks for someone in my loved one's age group or with their medical history?
10. Are there other treatment options available outside of this clinical trial?
11. Has this clinical trial started yet?
12. What are the requirements to participate in this clinical trial?
13. What does it mean if my loved one is randomized to the control arm? Can they still get the study treatment?
14. Is my loved one able to take other medications or continue current treatments while participating in this clinical trial?
15. Are there any preliminary results from this clinical trial that you can share with me?
16. Can my loved one leave this clinical trial at any time?

## PARTICIPATION IN THE CLINICAL TRIAL

1. Given my loved one's age and medical history, would they be a good candidate for this clinical trial?
2. Are there cognitive or physical ability requirements to participate?
3. Can I help my loved one through the eligibility screening process?
4. Can you explain the informed consent process?
5. What happens if my loved one cannot or does not want to participate in this clinical trial?

## STUDY PROCEDURES AND CARE PARTNER INVOLVEMENT

1. What treatments, tests, or procedures will my loved one receive?
2. How often will my loved one need to visit the study site for treatments, tests, or procedures?
3. How long will this study last, and what will that mean for my loved one?
4. How will this treatment affect my loved one's daily life, work, or activities?
5. What happens if my loved one misses a visit or needs to take a break?
6. Can my loved one continue seeing their regular doctor during this clinical trial?
7. How are side effects managed during this clinical trial?
8. What would my role as a care partner be during this clinical trial?
9. Will my loved one need assistance with medication or daily tasks during this clinical trial?
10. Are home visits or remote monitoring options available?
11. If we have concerns during this clinical trial (eg, my loved one misses an appointment, misses a study drug dose, experiences a treatment side effect), whom can we contact?
12. Are there any care partner communities or social groups that could provide support and guidance on questions I may have?

- ## NOTES



1. If my loved one has a language barrier or cannot communicate well (due to dementia or other health issues), how will their well-being be monitored?
2. How can I advocate for my loved one if I have concerns during this clinical trial?
3. How will my loved one's privacy be protected?
4. If the study treatment works well for my loved one, can they continue it after this clinical trial ends?
5. Will my loved one receive follow-up care after this clinical trial ends?
6. Will I be notified when this clinical trial is completed?
7. When will the results from this clinical trial be available?  
Will the results be shared with us?
8. What happens if my loved one wishes to no longer participate in this clinical trial?



1. How much time do we have to decide whether my loved one will participate in this clinical trial?
2. Can we consult with other family members or specialists before making a decision?
3. What resources are available to help me support my loved one through this process?
4. What are the next steps if my loved one wants to participate in this clinical trial?