Questions to Ask Before Undergoing a Colonoscopy

1. Have you had formal training in endoscopy in a Gastroenterology fellowship or surgical residency? If so, did you perform at least 140 colonoscopies during your training?

2. Do you perform more than 100 colonoscopies annually?

3. When performing a colonoscopy, is your rate of cecal (total colon) intubation greater than 90%?

4. For colonoscopy, do you monitor adenoma detection rate, and is your adenoma detection rate at least 30% for men and 20% for women?

5. If you do not monitor adenoma detection rate, do you measure and track withdrawal time of the endoscope from the cecum, and if so, does it average greater than 6 minutes?

6. Do you monitor and track the effectiveness of colonoscopy preparation?

7. Do you assess patients for pre-procedure anesthesia risk using the American Society of Anesthesia (ASA) classification?

8. Do you provide written discharge instructions and do you have 24-hour emergency assistance for questions or problems after a procedure?

9. Do you track and report immediate complications if they occur after a procedure?

10. Does your endoscopic facility have dedicated reprocessing (disinfection) personnel and equipment? Are the reprocessing personnel assessed on a regular basis for ongoing competency?