Use the below categories and questions to guide your discussion with patients who may have IBS (irritable bowel syndrome).

Before considering an IBS diagnosis, evaluate alarm features such as: anemia, illness, fever, medications, blood in stool, unintentional weight loss, family history of colorectal cancer, and abdominal mass. If alarm features are present or the patient is age 50 or older, diagnostic testing may need to be performed to further evaluate the patient.

	How many times a week do you have a bowel movement?						
BOWEL MOVEMENT	What is the appearance of your stool?						
	Separate hard lumps, like nuts.	Sausage- shaped but lumpy.	Like a sausage or snake but with cracks on the surface.	Like a sausage or snake, smooth and soft.	Soft blobs with clear-cut edges.	Fluffu pieces with ragged edges, a mushy stool.	Watery, no solid pieces.
SYMPTOMS	Which of these symptoms do you experience?						
	☐ Belly pain	☐ Bloating	☐ Straining	■ Bowel incontinence		☐ Incomplete bowel movements	
	☐ Discomfort	Diarrhea	☐ Urgency	☐ Constipation			
SYM	What other symptoms have you experienced?						
CHRONICITY	When did these symptoms start?						
	How often do you experience them?						
BURDEN	How do symptoms impact your daily life?						
TREATMENT	What steps have you taken to manage your symptoms?						
	How satisfied are you with your current treatment?						
GOALS	What symptom improvements are you looking to achieve?						

This form is not for use by patients or caregivers. This form should only be used by qualified medical professionals and is not intended to substitute for professional medical assessment and/or advice.

