The right questions can help guide your diagnosis.

Diagnosing exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI) can be difficult, but getting patients to open up about all of their GI symptoms, especially the details, can help lead to a diagnosis. Remember, if your patient presents with any one of the signs or symptoms of EPI, including diarrhea, abdominal pain, bloating, flatulence, unexplained weight loss, or steatorrhea, consider EPI in your differential diagnosis.1-4

**USE THE FOLLOWING TOPICS TO GUIDE THE CONVERSATION**

**Urgency/Frequency**
- How urgently do you need to have bowel movements? How frequently does this occur?
- Do you wake in the middle of the night to have a bowel movement? How frequently does this occur?

**Stool Details**
- Is your stool loose?
- Does it float?
- Is it greasy?
- Is the color pale?
- Does it smell very foul?
- Is it difficult to flush?
- Have you noticed droplets of oil in your toilet?

**Dieting and Abdominal Pain**
- Could you tell me about your experience with gas and bloating?
  How frequently do you feel this way?
- Have you had unexplained weight changes?
- Do you have abdominal pain?
  When does this occur?
- Could you describe to me what you ate yesterday? Is this typical for you?

In addition to describing symptoms, it may be helpful to show patients an example of an image of steatorrhea. Not all patients experience this symptom. Encourage patients to visit educational websites like IdentifyEPI.com so they will better understand the condition.

When you diagnose patients with EPI, provide them with the GI Symptom Tracker, located at IdentifyEPI.com, and follow up a few weeks later to evaluate symptoms and treatment progress.