Regular board self-evaluation is integral to effective governance. Here are some questions to assess whether your board is getting maximum mileage from its self-evaluation process.

**Questionnaire**

1. Is your self-evaluation questionnaire based on recognized best practices for effective governance – or does it rate satisfaction against an undefined or subjective standard?

2. Is the questionnaire customized for your board, for example, reflecting whether it’s a hospital or a health system board, and whether it’s part of a system or is freestanding?

3. Is the questionnaire comprehensive, covering at least these areas:
   a. **Board responsibilities for:**
      - Financial performance and long term financial planning
      - Strategic planning
      - Quality of care and customer service
      - Mission effectiveness and community benefit
      - CEO evaluation
      - Corporate compliance and audit
   b. **Formal components of effective governance:**
      - Roles and responsibilities
      - Board and committee structure, size and responsibilities
      - Board information and education
      - Board composition and diversity
      - Relationships with the CEO, medical staff and other key stakeholders
      - Board and committee agendas and meetings
      - Board culture, including questions about participation and candid discussion

**Self-Evaluation Process**

4. Does the board conduct a self-assessment at least every two years?

5. Does the board set aside at least a few hours at a board meeting or retreat to discuss the results and identify opportunities to improve?

6. Does the board use self-assessment, or another appropriate occasion, to develop board goals or a list of educational topics for the coming year?

7. Does the board also assess the performance of the chairperson?

8. Does the board periodically utilize a facilitator who is knowledgeable about governance to lead a board development retreat?