Questions to ask about testing and staging

1. What tests will I have? How often will they be repeated? Will my insurance pay for these tests?
2. When will I have a biopsy? Will I have more than one? What are the risks?
3. How will my biopsy be performed? What else might be done at this time?
4. How soon will I know the results and who will explain them to me?
5. Who will talk with me about the next steps? When?
6. What biomarker tests will I have? When? Will I have genetic testing?
7. What will you do to make me comfortable during testing?
8. Is my cancer resectable or unresectable? What does this mean?
9. Is my cancer early stage, locally advanced, or metastatic?
10. What type and subtype of kidney cancer do I have? Is this type common? Does the tumor have any rare features?
11. Is the cancer in any other areas like my liver, lung, or bone?
12. What does my stage mean in terms of length of survival and quality of life?