

**BE INFORMED. BE EMPOWERED. BE PREPARED.**

# 6 WAYS TO BE A SAFE PATIENT

**1**

## **SPEAK UP.**

Talk to your doctor about all questions or worries you have. Ask them what they are doing to protect you.

- ▶ If you have a catheter, ask each day if it is necessary.
- ▶ Ask your doctor how he/she prevents surgical site infections. Also ask how you can prepare for surgery to reduce your infection risk.



**2**

## **KEEP HANDS CLEAN.**

Be sure everyone cleans their hands before touching you.



**3**

## **GET SMART ABOUT ANTIBIOTICS.**

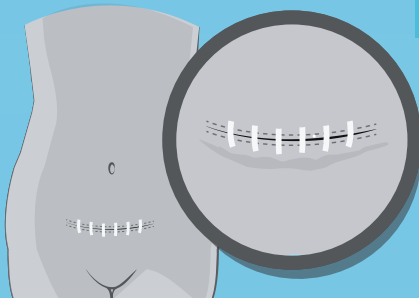
Ask if tests will be done to make sure the right antibiotic is prescribed.



**4**

## **KNOW THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF INFECTION.**

Some skin infections, such as MRSA, appear as redness, pain, or drainage at an IV catheter site or surgery site. Often these symptoms come with a fever. Tell your doctor if you have these symptoms.



**5**

## **WATCH OUT FOR DEADLY DIARRHEA. (AKA *C. difficile*)**

Tell your doctor if you have 3 or more diarrhea episodes in 24 hours, especially if you have been taking an antibiotic.



**6**

## **PROTECT YOURSELF.**

Get vaccinated against flu and other infections to avoid complications.

