



What are adverse events?

An adverse event is an unexpected occurrence such as the wrong procedure being done. We take many steps to prevent adverse events, as described below.

How are adverse events prevented?

There are steps the hospital takes to prevent adverse effects.
As a patient, you can make your care safer by being an active, involved and informed member of your health care team.

You will be asked to sign an Informed Consent form before any surgery or procedure. Read it carefully and make sure it has your correct identification information, as well as the kind of surgery/procedure you will have.

You will be asked to bring in a list of the medications you are currently taking. This helps assure you are taking the proper medications while in the hospital, prevents duplication of medications and may prevent any drug-drug or drug-disease interactions.

When you are admitted for your surgery/procedure, the staff will ask your name and birth date, and confirm your specific surgery/procedure and the side of the body to be operated. The doctor may mark the site on your body to be operated on.

Before the surgery/procedure, the team will perform a “time out” to assure, among other things, they are doing the right surgery on the right body part and on the right person.

How are surgical site infections prevented?

To prevent surgical site infections, healthcare providers:

- Clean their hands and arms with an antiseptic agent just before the surgery.
- Clean their hands with soap and water or a hand sanitizer before and after caring for each patient.
- May remove some of your body hair in the area of the procedure using electric clippers.
- Wear hair covers, masks, gowns, and gloves during surgery to keep the surgery area clean.
- May give you antibiotics before surgery starts through the first 24 hours after surgery.
- Clean the skin at the site of your surgery with a special soap that kills germs.

What do I need to do when I go home from the hospital?

Before you go home, your doctor or nurse will explain everything you need to know about taking care of your wound and any new medications you may need to take. Make sure you understand the instructions - ask questions.

Always clean your hands before and after caring for your wound.

Make sure you know who to contact if you have questions or problems after you get home.

If you have any symptoms of an infection, such as redness and pain at the surgery site, drainage, or fever, call your doctor immediately.