

Basic Infection Prevention

Important Things to Remember

- ◆ Knowing the signs and symptoms of an infection are important to your health.
- ◆ Signs and symptoms of an infection are: redness, swelling, pain, drainage, fever, and chills.
- ◆ Bacteria are found everywhere. When they grow in the wrong place or are overtaken by harmful bacteria, you can get an infection.
- ◆ People receiving dialysis may not be able to fight bacteria or infections as well as someone who is not on dialysis.
- ◆ Bacteria may enter your body in many ways: through your access site, your lungs, and through a cut in your skin.
- ◆ Your body's defense against bacteria is your immune system. It forms antibodies which act like soldiers fighting germs.