What are healthcare-associated infections?

Healthcare-associated infections are a result of germs entering your body during medical care.

**Catheter-associated urinary tract infections**
When germs travel along a urinary catheter and cause an infection in your bladder or kidney.

**Surgical site infections**
An infection that happens after surgery in the part of the body where the surgery took place.

**Bloodstream infections**
When germs enter the blood by way of a catheter or tube that is placed in your vein.

**Pneumonia**
Infection of the lungs.

**Gastrointestinal infections**
Infections that cause inflammation in your intestinal tract and can lead to deadly diarrhea. These infections are frequently caused by the *C. difficile* germ and are often seen in patients who have taken antibiotics.
To help APIC members gear up for **International Infection Prevention Week 2014, October 19 –25**, APIC has provided these patient safety fliers to educate patients and families on their roles in infection prevention.

Visit APIC’s webpage [www.apic.org/InfectionPreventionAndYou](http://www.apic.org/InfectionPreventionAndYou) to access tools and resources to get the word out to patients and healthcare workers within your healthcare organization. Here are a few simple things you can do:

1. Place this infographic poster in a patient care area.
2. “Like” the consumer-focused APIC—Infection Prevention and You Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/APICInfectionPreventionAndYou](http://www.facebook.com/APICInfectionPreventionAndYou))
3. Include a link to the Infection Prevention and You consumer web page on your Facebook wall or Twitter post.