

# Terms You Need to Know

## Regarding Your Heart

- ◆ **Angioplasty:** A procedure that uses a tiny balloon to help open a narrowed or hardened blood vessel.
- ◆ **Aortic valve:** One of the four heart valves; it helps blood flow to your aortic artery, which sends it to the rest of your body.
- ◆ **Atrioventricular valve:** One of the two types of heart valve that control the flow of blood in the heart. They make the “heartbeat” sound you hear as they open and close.
- ◆ **Atrium:** The two upper chambers of the heart.
- ◆ **Bileaflet valve:** A type of artificial heart valve.
- ◆ **Calcification:** When calcium deposits build up on heart valves, making them work improperly.
- ◆ **Diastole:** The period when the heart muscle relaxes between contractions.
- ◆ **Echocardiogram:** A test that uses sound waves to produce an image of your heart.
- ◆ **Electrocardiogram:** A painless test that shows how quickly, strongly and regularly your heart is beating.
- ◆ **Fibrillation:** A rapid or irregular heartbeat.
- ◆ **Mitral valve:** One of the four heart valves; it separates the left atrium from the left ventricle.
- ◆ **Myocardial infarction:** A heart attack.
- ◆ **Pulmonary valve:** One of the four heart valves; it helps blood flow to your pulmonary artery, which sends it to the rest of your body.
- ◆ **Systole:** The part of the heartbeat when the heart contracts.
- ◆ **Tricuspid valve:** One of the four heart valves; it separates the right atrium from the right ventricle.
- ◆ **Ventricle:** The lower two chambers of the heart.

