

Home Care Instructions

What type of care does my PICC line need?

- ❖ After each treatment, or once a week, the PICC line should be flushed with saline.
- ❖ To prevent rupture during flushing, only >10ml syringes are to be used and the line should never be forcibly flushed.
- ❖ Check the exit site daily for redness, swelling, pain, bleeding or drainage. If you see any of these problems, call your doctor or nurse right away.
- ❖ Keep the PICC line site clean and dry. Hands must be washed before using or caring for your PICC.

Should someone else learn to care for my PICC?

- ❖ Yes. Having someone else who has been trained is important.

What if my dressing gets soiled or wet?

- ❖ The dressing should be changed as soon as possible. This will prevent your PICC from getting infected or falling out. Have the home health nurse or trained family member change the dressing.

What if my PICC line develops a leak?

- ❖ If your PICC line gets damaged, call your nurse or doctor right away to have it checked, repaired, and /or replaced as soon as possible.

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PICC Cover Size Chart

| PICC Protector | Model # | Bicep Circumference | Forearm Circumference |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Small | PC-13 | 8 - 11 in | 6 - 9 inches |
| Medium | PC-15 | 11 - 13 in | 7 - 10 inches |
| Large | PC-17 | 12 in & up | 8 inches & up |



P&A PICC

ABOUT
MY PICC
LINE

Patient
Information

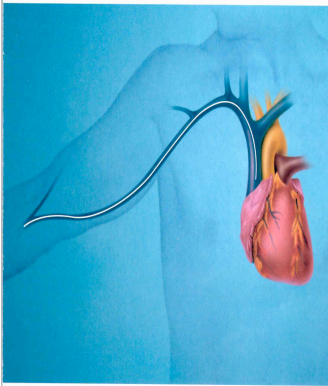
What is a PICC line?

PICC stands for Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter.

A PICC line is a catheter that is designed to provide you with a reliable intravenous access. This is a great option if you need moderate to long term therapy (5 days up to a year or longer). It is also a preferred line if you have "no veins" left to poke for IVs and/or lab draws.

PICC lines are placed at the patient's bedside in a hospital. These types of lines can also be placed in extended care facilities.

In adults, PICC lines are inserted in one of the veins in the upper part of the arm.



The catheter tip is then advanced until it is in the lower part of the superior vena cava - just above the heart. After the PICC line has been placed, a chest X-Ray will be ordered to ensure that your PICC is in the perfect place before it is used.

What is the Purpose of a PICC Line?

- Protect your veins from harsh medications
- Provide comfort to you by eliminating many needle sticks for IVs or lab draws
- Give you and the medical staff a reliable intravenous access device

Sterile Technique during PICC Insertion



During PICC insertions, the PICC provider will wear the following to minimize germ counts and prevent infections

- Sterile Gowns
- Sterile Gloves
- Hair Covering
- Facemask

The PICC provider will also use sterile drapes. It is very important to not touch these during the insertion process.

Commonly Asked Questions

Q- Does it hurt to put the PICC line in?

A- Many patients state that a PICC line insertion hurts less than an IV start. Others agree that the pain is equivalent to that of an IV start.

Q- Will it hurt to take the PICC line out?

A- No. You will feel the bandage being removed. Most patients state they didn't even feel the PICC come out.

Q- Can I take a shower or swim with a PICC line?

A- The bandage needs to be kept dry. You may shower with an appropriate cover over the PICC line; however, you should not swim.

Q- How long will I have my PICC line in?

A- This will be determined by you and your doctor.

Q- Are there any risks involved?

A- As with everything in life, there are risks. Our goal is to provide you with the least invasive type of vascular access line that will last for the duration of your therapy. If a PICC is ordered for you, our PICC nurses will talk with you about this in more detail.

Q- How can a PICC line be placed when everyone has such a difficult time starting IVs in me and drawing my blood?

A- Our PICC nurses use state of the art technology. An ultrasound machine allows them to see the veins and arteries inside of your body on a computer screen. You can see them on the screen too!