

Understanding your PICC Line

What should I report to my HITH team?

- Pain, redness, warmth or swelling in the PICC arm or in the shoulder or neck.
- Itchiness, redness or blistering underneath the dressing.
- Blood or fluid oozing from the insertion site or under the dressing.
- The dressing is lifting, completely come off, wet/moist or dirty. Do not attempt to change the dressing yourself.
- If the bung (connector) becomes loose or falls off. Do **NOT** reconnect it.
- If you feel or hear a 'swishing' sound near your ear or behind your nose while IV is running or the HITH nurse is flushing the catheter.
- If the bottle of medication is not emptying or the pump keeps alarming.
- If you notice the PICC has come out at all, do **NOT** attempt to push it back in.
- **Do NOT inject anything into the PICC yourself.**

If you have any of these concerns notify your HITH nurse immediately on:

Emergency Care at Home

Breakage or rupture:

Bend catheter over as close to insertion site as possible. Wrap tape or an elastic band around the catheter to kink it off.

PICC dislodged or pulled out:

Apply pressure at the insertion site with clean gauze or cotton ball for at least 5 minutes. Cover site with dressing or gauze.

Do not attempt to push it back in.

Excessive bleeding from site:

Press firmly at the site the same as you do for a blood test.

Bung (connector) comes off:

If the PICC has clamps, ensure they are closed, cover the end.

If you have any of these concerns notify your HITH Team immediately on: 30491414

OR

If out of hours present to your closest Emergency Department.

Unwell at home

If you have a temperature of 38 degrees or higher, shortness of breath, chest pain or a fast heartbeat,

**Call an ambulance immediately on:
000**

Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter



Treating patients safely at home

Hospital in the Home (HITH)

07 3049 1414

Introduction

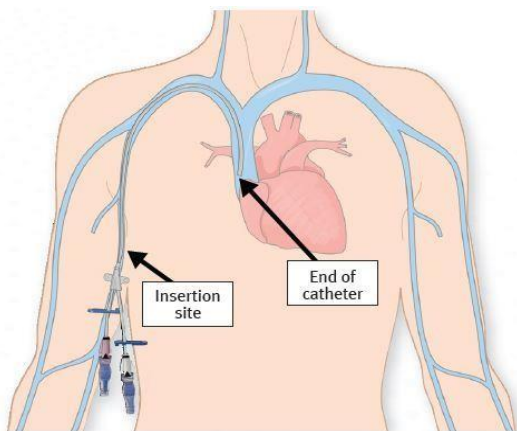
This brochure provides information to help you and your family understand your PICC and how to care for it at home.

What is a PICC

A PICC line is a long flexible tube (about 50cm long), recommended by your doctor for administration of medications directly into your vein for a period of time. It is inserted into an arm vein above the elbow, with the other end sitting just above the heart.

You might experience some bleeding, tenderness and bruising for the first and second day after insertion of the PICC line.

The PICC line site will be covered with a clear dressing and additional securement to prevent accidental dislodgement. Dressing changes are scheduled every 7 days or more frequently if needed.



Caring for your PICC line

Avoid touching your PICC line and the dressing.

Physical activity

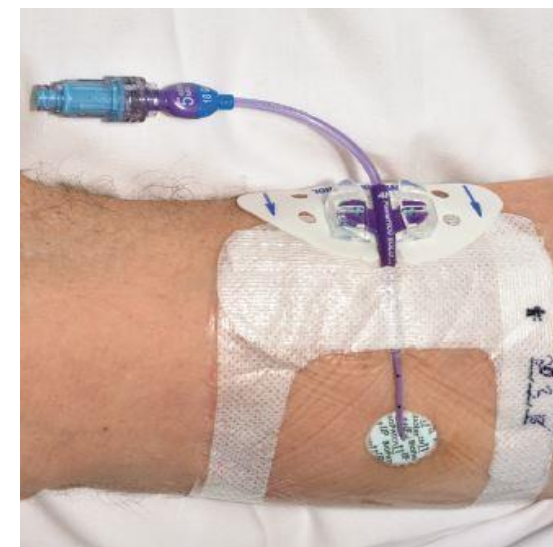
- There may be some activities that you are not able to do while you have your PICC line in.

Things to look out for

- Signs of infection such as redness, pain, pus or discharge.
- Signs of a blood clot such as swelling in your arm, discomfort, pain, heat or redness of your shoulder, chest, neck or arm.
- Changes in the length of your PICC line.

Things to avoid

- Make sure your line does not get knocked or pulled out (keep your line secure).
- Do not get your PICC line wet. Before having a shower, cover it with a plastic bag, plastic wrap or waterproof sleeve taped at the top and bottom to protect from water getting under your dressing.
- Do not swim while the PICC line is in your arm.
- Do not use scissors or sharp objects near your PICC line.
- Be careful around small children or pets to avoid accidental pulling or damage.
- Avoid any heavy lifting or reaching above your head repeatedly.



What should you ask your HITH staff?

- Can I play sport or go swimming?
- How do I shower with the PICC line in my arm?
- How do I clamp the line if I need to?
- What do I do if there is fluid leaking from my PICC line?