

What should I report to my nurse

- If you become unwell, develop a fever and/or chills.
- Pain or redness at the insertion site.
- Any signs of redness, warmth, pain or swelling in the PICC arm or up into 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 soiled (dirty).
- If the bung (connector) becomes loose or falls off.
- If you feel or hear a 'swishing' sound near your ear or behind your nose while IV is running or 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.**
- **If you have any of these concerns notify your nurse immediately.**



Emergency Management at Home

If you feel unwell, develop a fever and/or chills.

Have any difficulty breathing and/or swelling of the throat.

For these concerns call an ambulance immediately on

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Breakage or rupture:

Bend catheter over as close to insertion site as possible. Wrap tape or an elastic band around 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 five minutes. Cover site with dressing or gauze. **Do not** attempt to push it back in.

Excessive bleeding from site:

Press firmly at the site, as for a blood test.

Bung (connector) comes off:

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

For any of these situations please call the number provided to you on release from hospital.

If after hours present to your closest Emergency Department.

Understanding your PICC Line

Peripherally inserted central catheter



Hospital in the Home (HITH)

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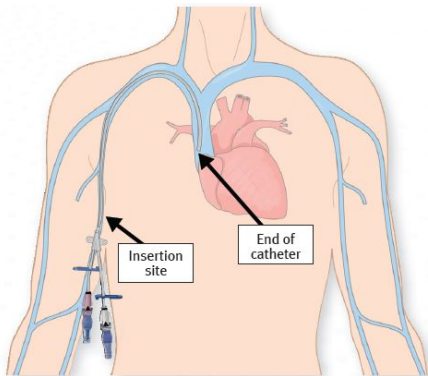
This brochure provides information to help you and your family understand and look after your PICC line when you are at home.

What is a PICC line

A PICC line is a long flexible tube (about 50cm long), recommended by your doctor for administration of medicines' directly into your vein over a period. 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.



Caring for your PICC line

Always wash your hands with soap and water and dry thoroughly prior to touching the PICC or dressing.

Physical activity

- There may be some activities that you are not able to do while you have your PICC line in.
- Talk to your doctor or nurse about what activities you can do.

Things to look out for

- Signs of infection such as redness, pain, pus or discharge
- Signs of clot such as swelling, 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 you line does not get knocked or pulled out (keep your line secure)
- Avoid getting your PICC line wet. Cover it with a plastic bag, plastic wrap or waterproof sleeve taped from top to bottom to protect from water before having a shower.
- Avoid submerging your PICC or lumens in water. Do not bathe or swim.
- Do not use scissors or sharp objects near your PICC to avoid piercing or damaging the catheter.
- Be cautious around small children or pets to avoid catheter damage or accidental pulling.
- Avoid any heavy lifting or reaching above your head.
- Do not put anything stretchy or tight around the PICC arm as this may disrupt the blood flow and cause complications.

Risks associated with a PICC

- Risk of infection
- A blood clot along the catheter.
- Line blockage
- Dislodgement, breakage or splitting of catheter.