

Prevent Infections

If germs get into your central line and into your blood stream, it can cause a life-threatening infection. There are many ways to keep this from happening:

The Patient Should:

- Wash your hands often.
- Do not touch your line or dressing unless necessary.
- Keep your dressing clean and dry.
- Shower daily and cover your dressing when showering.

The Nurse Should:

- Wash hands before and after caring for the central line.
- Scrub the hub every time the line is used.
- If using site scrub, turn it 8—10 times.
- If using alcohol prep, scrub for 15 seconds. Allow it to dry.

For the Dressing Change the Nurse Should:

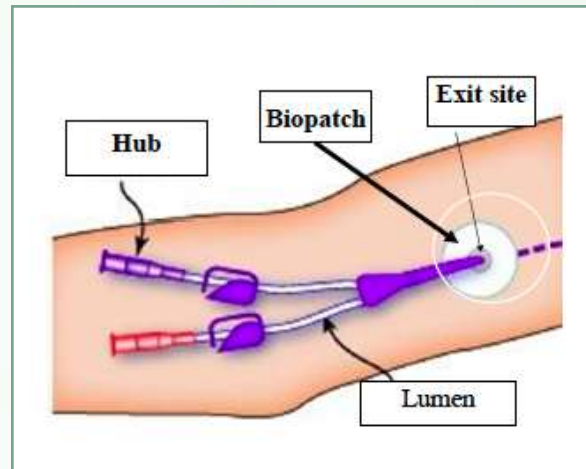
- Use a mask and special gloves.
- Change the dressing every 7 days.
- Change the dressing if bloody, wet, or loose.

Using Sterile Technique means:

- Face masks must be worn by patient and anyone within three feet of the bed during insertion and dressing changes. Wear sterile gloves.
- Use a sterile dressing kit.
- Scrub the “exit site” and the skin around the central line back and forth for at least 30 seconds and let dry.

Written by SCCC Vascular Access Device Team

Glossary



Aqua guard shield: used to keep your dressing dry.



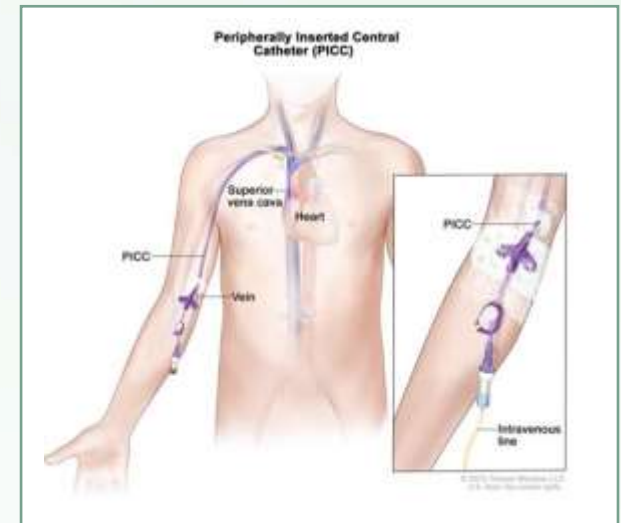
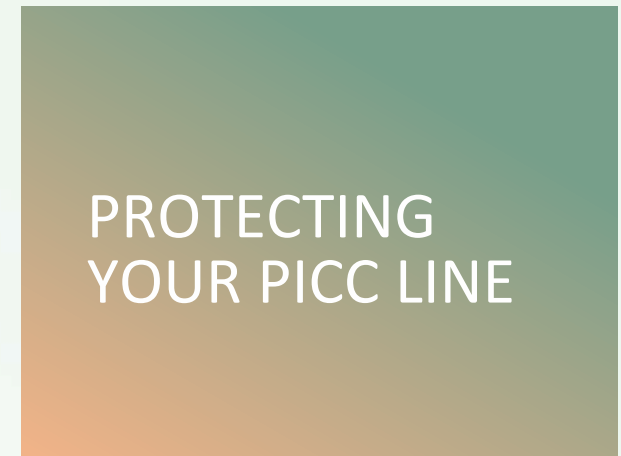
Site Scrub: Used to clean the hub 8 turns or 10 seconds



Biopatch: Protective disk that prevents germs from growing.



Dressing for PICC Line



What is a PICC Line?

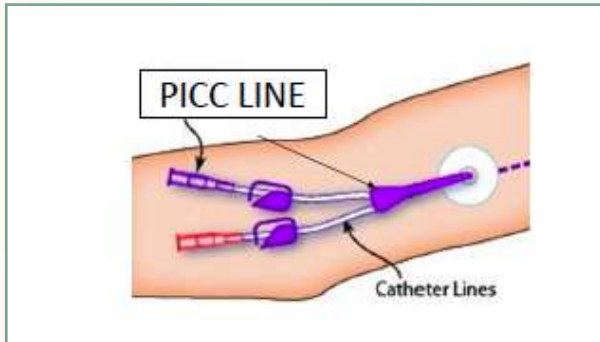
Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter

A PICC line is a type of catheter that the tip goes directly to your heart.



Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC Line)

A PICC line is inserted through the arm into a vein. The catheter ends at the largest vein nearest to the heart.



- Patient should keep their inserted device identification card and discharge instructions with them.
- **Each lumen should be clamped when not in use.**
- Can be used for IV fluids, chemotherapy, antibiotics, blood products or intravenous nutrition. It may also be used to draw blood.
- This catheter is inserted and removed by a trained provider, this can be a registered nurse, advanced practice provider or physician.

Who to call in case of emergency:

Do's and Don'ts

Do's

- Use your arm to do simple activities. This will help stop blood clots from forming in the PICC line.
- Have your first dressing changed within 48 hours of having the line inserted.
- Have the dressing changed at least every seven days.
- Keep your dressing dry. It is ok to use plastic wrap and tape or special gloves called Aqua Guard Gloves as needed.
- Keep your PICC line lumens close to your body. It is ok to use a stocking, loose bandage or sleeve.
- Let your provider know if the line is hanging out.

Don'ts

- Lift more than the provider orders for you.
- Go in a hot tub or Jacuzzi.
- Swim in a pool, lake, or ocean.
- Let pets or children near your line.

When To Call Your Doctor:

Signs of Infection

- New pain or tenderness.
- Any redness around your line.
- Drainage, pus, oozing, or wetness around the catheter.
- A foul odor coming from the dressing.
- A swollen face, neck, or arm on the side of the central line.
- A fever of 100.4F or greater.
- Incision site that does not heal.

Signs of a Blood Clot

- Swelling and/or a new pain in the arm, neck, or face on the side of the line.

Signs of Bleeding

- Dressing wet with blood.
 - A bruise that gets bigger around your line.
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