

ABOUT YOUR PICC CATHETER



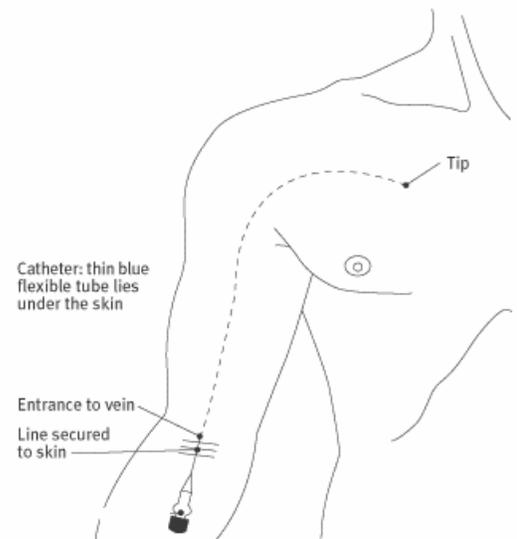
PICC (PERIPHERALLY INSERTED CENTRAL CATHETER)

Your doctor has ordered a medication that is required to be given into your bloodstream through an IV catheter. Having the PICC will make it more comfortable for you because you will not have to have a needle inserted into a vein over and over again. The PICC can be used to give you special fluids, medication, blood products or to take blood samples for testing.

The PICC catheter is placed into one of the large veins near the bend of your arm and is threaded into a larger central venous system. The catheter exit site will need to have special care, which will be explained by your nurse.

CARING FOR YOUR CATHETER

- » A dressing over the IV site helps decrease infection. Your nurse will change it in the first 24 hours and then weekly and whenever it gets wet, dirty or loose.
- » When bathing, do not get the dressing wet. Cover the dressing and IV with plastic wrap and tape the top and bottom to keep it dry. If your dressing does get wet, contact the nurse as instructed.
- » Avoid repetitious and strenuous exercise or movement of the arm with the PICC. If your arm should become sore or swollen call your nurse.



CATHETER FLUSHING

Your catheter will need to be flushed before and after each use. While on catheter maintenance you will need to flush at least daily with some brands and weekly with others. Your nurse will instruct you as to your catheters order. This will prevent clots from

PROBLEM SOLVING



SYMPTOM	ACTION	SYMPTOM	ACTION
<p>Infection: Fever over 101°, muscle aches, weakness, chills, pain, swelling, tenderness or drainage at insertion site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call nurse immediately 	<p>Phlebitis: Pain, swelling, tenderness, warmth or redness at insertion site or along the tunneled path of the catheter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call nurse immediately
<p>Catheter blockage: Cannot infuse solution into catheter. Cannot flush catheter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not force solution • Call nurse immediately 	<p>Catheter Movement: Pain or swelling in the neck, face or upper arm. Length of catheter outside the body has changed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call nurse immediately • If catheter comes completely out, put a pressure dressing over the site and call nurse immediately
<p>Broken or leaking catheter: Wet dressing, moisture along catheter or moisture along tubing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call nurse immediately 	<p>Cap missing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attach saline or heparin syringe and call RN
<p>Blood back-up into tubing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injection cap must be securely fastened • Flush catheter with sodium chloride and heparin as instructed 	<p>Air Embolism: When a large amount of air enters the blood stream, it can cause an air embolism. This occurs when the air blocks a blood vessel.</p> <p>Shortness of Breath Coughing Chest Pain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STOP INFUSION. Lie down on your left side with your head lower than your feet. Have someone call your nurse immediately. Most symptoms of an air embolism will pass in 30-60 minutes