

Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC)



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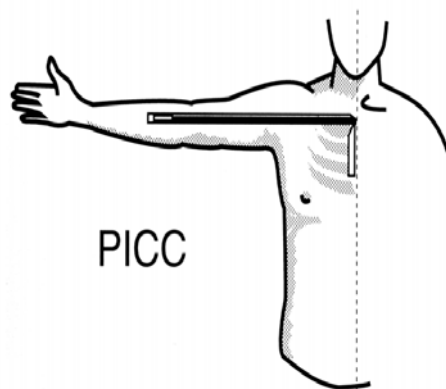
The PICC Catheter is intended to provide a more comfortable & convenient way for you to receive infusion therapy.

What is a PICC Catheter

The PICC catheter is a tube placed into your arm and is used to deliver intravenous fluids and medications to you. This catheter prevents the need for multiple “pokes” to start an IV.

The PICC catheter may be left in place for several weeks or months. Your doctor will discuss with you for how long you will need your PICC Catheter.

The PICC Catheter is made from a small, soft flexible tube. The catheter is long and narrow and is connected to a wider, portion of tubing which remains outside of your vein. To make sure the PICC is in the right place a x-ray is taken during the insertion procedure.



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Where to go to have your port inserted:

Toronto General Hospital
Eaton Wing 1-457, Angio Room
200 Elizabeth Street
Toronto, Ontario, M5G 2M9

Or

Toronto Western Hospital
Main Pavilion – 3rd Floor
Medical Imaging Reception
399 Bathurst Street
Toronto, Ontario, M5T 2S8

What Happens During the Procedure?

Insertion of a PICC line takes about 15 to 30 minutes to complete. A Medical Imaging staff member will explain the procedure and ask you to sign a consent form. Please speak to your caregiver if you have any questions.

You will be taken into the procedure room, and moved onto the table. A local anesthetic is used to freeze the area. The PICC catheter is inserted into a vein above the bend in your arm. The catheter's tip will be positioned near the heart to allow for good mixing of your IV medications.

A sterile dressing is applied to the area where the catheter exits from the skin. You may experience some discomfort in the arm for a day or two after the PICC catheter is inserted.

Is there Any Special Preparation?

You may eat a regular diet before the insertion of the PICC catheter. Bloodwork may be required prior to the procedure. You will need to change into a hospital gown but you may wear whatever you wish below the waist.

Arrive at the hospital 30 minutes prior to your appointment time. Please bring your Ontario Health card and your hospital card with you.

Please bring a list of routine medications you are taking.



Post-Procedure Instructions

- Rest and do not perform any strenuous activities for the day.
- Continue to eat your regular diet.
- Take Tylenol or other non-aspirin pain medications as directed, if you have any discomfort.

You must ensure that the catheter is securely taped to your skin. The PICC line is **NOT** routinely sutured and therefore can slip out of the vein easily if the dressing becomes loose.

When to call your physician or RN Case Manager

Tell your doctor or nurse immediately if you notice any of the following symptoms:

- Fever, chills
- Excessive bleeding or drainage where your catheter was put in
- Pain, redness, or swelling of your arm with the catheter
- Swelling of your neck
- Pain or discomfort during infusion of your IV solution
- Chest pain or discomfort while your catheter is in place
- Your catheter comes out (a little or completely)
- Your catheter leaks, breaks, or is damaged

The symptoms listed above can be signs of infection or complications. The symptoms listed above can be signs of infection or complications.

Important Information about your Catheter

If you have a catheter leak, break, or damage:

- Fold the catheter below the break or leak
- Tape it together
- Call your doctor or nurse immediately for further instructions

If the catheter is partially pulled out from its original position, your catheter needs to be checked. We may need to insert a new catheter in the Medical Imaging Department.

If the catheter is fully out, apply pressure to the site for 5 minutes to stop any bleeding and call your doctor or nurse for further instructions.

Follow Up Care

If the catheter is being used at home, your RN Case Manager/Nurse may teach you or a family member how to change your dressing and flush the catheter.

- You may have some tenderness in the arm for several days after insertion. Apply gentle heat for 10 minutes 3 to 4 times daily.
- Otherwise your Home Care nurse will administer the medication and change the dressing when you need it.
- You will always need a dressing over the catheter site.
- Keep the dressing dry.
- You may shower with a PICC line. Please wrap your site in plastic and tape it securely. This is to prevent it from getting wet.

Who do I call if I have questions after my Port Insertion?

Doctor: _____ Telephone: _____

RN Case Manager: _____ Telephone: _____

After hours call (416) 946-2000 and ask for the Patient Care Coordinator.

If you have a problem that needs to be looked at right away, go to the emergency room of your local hospital.