

PERIPHERALLY INSERTED CENTRAL CATHETER (PICC)

A **Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC)** is a central venous access device inserted into a vein (usually basilic or brachial) on the inside of the upper arm to provide infusion therapy. Insertion is done by an experienced provider with ultrasound guidance.

PICC Line Use:

- Use a PICC or midline catheter (MC) instead of a peripheral intravenous (PIV) catheter when the duration of IV therapy will likely exceed six days
- Assess daily whether a PICC line is needed

Care and Maintenance:

- Wash hands prior to providing any care or maintenance
- Evaluate the catheter insertion site daily
- Document findings

Dressings:

- Change transparent dressing at least every 7 days, when it becomes soiled or loose, and per protocol
- Skin should be cleaned at every dressing change with an alcohol-chlorhexidine cleanser per manufacturer's instructions
- Measure the PICC at each dressing change from the same point as documented at insertion to ensure the catheter remains in its original position
- Label dressing with date and time of dressing change, and initials of staff performing change
- Document the procedure

• This material was prepared by Health Quality Innovators (HQI), a Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of CMS or HHS, and any reference to a specific product or entity herein does not constitute endorsement of that product or entity by CMS or HHS. 1250W/HQI/QIN-QIO-0600-08/23/23

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Flushing and Use:

- Flushing is necessary to maintain patency of the PICC
- Flush PICCs before and after each use, and weekly when not in use
- Check position, reflux, catheter status and insertion point each time PICC is accessed
- Clean needle free caps/hubs with 70% alcohol or alcohol-based CHG swab pads with every port access following manufacturers' instruction
- Flush with push-pause technique – pause briefly after each mL of fluid
- Never flush under resistance
- Stop any infusion and notify practitioner if the patient develops warmth, tenderness, erythema, discomfort or a malfunctioning catheter
- Change IV tubing every 4 days (96 hours) when PICC is in use
- Label tubing with the date, time and initials of staff replacing tubing
- Caps used as passive disinfection should be replaced every time a port is accessed
- When infusion is continuous, needleless connector tubing should be changed every 4 days (96 hours)
- Needleless connectors should be changed as soon as possible when soiled or compromised



Guidelines for the Prevention of Intravascular Catheter-Related Infections | CDC



Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) Line | Mayo Clinic



Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters (PICCs): The safe use | VascoFirst



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