



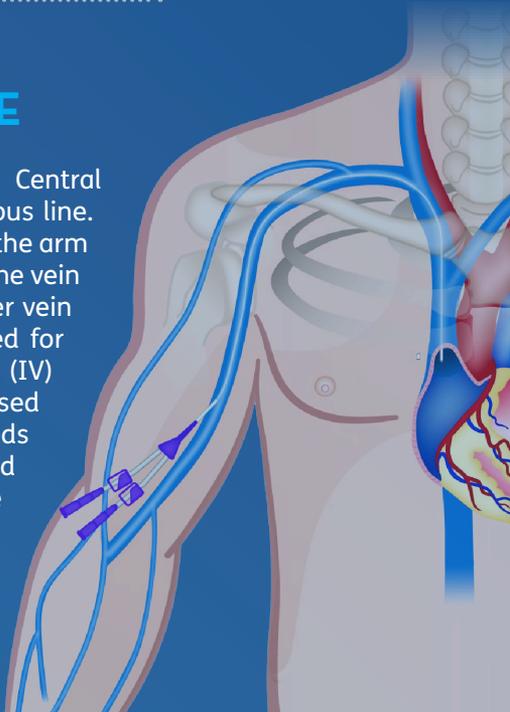
SUMMIT

MEDICAL GROUP

PATIENT INFORMATION FOR PERIPHERALLY INSERTED CENTRAL CATHETER (PICC)

WHAT IS A PICC LINE

PICC stands for Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter. The PICC is a flexible intravenous line. It is inserted into one of the large veins in the arm above the elbow, and then passed along the vein until the tip of the PICC line sits in a larger vein just above the heart. PICC lines are used for drawing blood and for giving intravenous (IV) fluid, medications, etc. PICC lines are used because they can be left in for longer periods of time, a week up to several months, and negate the need for you to have multiple IV drips put in your hand or forearm. PICC lines will reduce the risk for infection and will preserve the integrity of your peripheral veins.



HOW IS A PICC LINE INSERTED

All PICC lines are placed by specially trained medical staff using state of the art equipment in a sterile environment. PICC lines are placed in one of the large veins in the upper arm. A local anesthetic is used to numb the area where the PICC is inserted to minimize discomfort. Once your healthcare provider is satisfied that the PICC is in the best position, using 3CG technology, the catheter will be secured to your skin using a fixation device and then covered with a dressing. You may feel some initial discomfort at the site of insertion, but this usually goes away in 24-48 hours.

WHEN IS A PICC LINE NOT RIGHT FOR ME

- History of breast cancer w/lymph node removal
- History of blood clots associated with previous PICC Line placements
- History of shoulder Trauma
- Veins are too small upon assessment w/ultrasound

HOW DO I CARE FOR A PICC LINE

PICC lines do require some slight modifications to your normal daily activities to keep then in good working order.

Infection may occur if the insertion sight is not kept clean and dry. Strict adherence to proper hand hygiene by thoroughly washing and drying hands before any contact with any part of the PICC or the dressing is essential. You should also avoid touching the PICC dressing and insertion site unless necessary.

Report any redness, swelling or pain at the PICC insertion site and/or any signs of fever/chills to your healthcare provider.

The arm with the PICC should never be immersed in water therefore swimming and bathing should be avoided. However, showering with a PICC is okay provided you place your arm in a plastic bag which is secured above the PICC insertion site and removed after your shower. A small amount of bleeding from the insertion site is normal for the first 24 hours after your catheter is placed. However, if bleeding persists, or if blood leaks through the dressing, apply firm pressure to the site and call your healthcare provider.

Movement of the PICC from its location can be caused by strenuous coughing, frequent retching vomiting, heavy lifting, repeatedly raising your arm above your shoulder and by strenuous exercise. Avoid activities or forms of exercise that may cause the PICC to move, such as hanging wash, golfing, etc.

If you have any concerns or questions, speak directly to your healthcare provider.

208-238-3593

www.summitmedicine.net



444 Hospital Way, Bldg. 100, Ste. 112 • Pocatello, ID