

Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter—PICC

Many children need medication and fluids given through a vein that can irritate the small veins of the hands and feet. By using a PICC line in a larger vein we can reduce the number of times your child will be stuck with a needle for giving medications and fluids. The PICC line is a thin, hollow, plastic tube most often inserted into a vein in the inner elbow. Once inserted, the PICC is advanced until the tube's tip rests in a major vessel near the heart. The PICC is temporary and removed at the end of treatment.

The tube is flexible so bending the arm doesn't cause harm. The PICC should not limit normal activity. Avoid rough activities which may cause the catheter to be damaged or dislodged. The most common risk with PICC lines is infection. Other risks can be bleeding or bruising, irritation of the vein, or movement of the catheter tip. Please ask your nurse or child's doctor if you have any questions or concerns.

HOME CARE—Medication Administration & Flushing the PICC Line

Equipment Needed:

Alcohol Preps

2 syringes filled with 5cc normal saline

Syringe filled with _____cc heparin solution (100u/cc)

Syringe disposal box

Necessary Steps:

1. Clear working area.
2. Gather equipment and place on clean surface.
3. Wash hands thoroughly with soap for one minute.
4. Inspect PICC line site for signs of infection or infiltration (redness, warmth, puffiness or drainage). If any of these signs are present, stop procedure and inform the doctor.
5. Prepare saline and heparin syringes.
6. Clean the injection cap with alcohol for 5 seconds each 3 times.
7. Twist the normal saline syringe onto the injection cap and inject 5 cc. If resistance is met or signs of infiltration are noted (puffiness, leakage of fluid at insertion site) stop infusing the saline and call the doctor. After infusing the saline, remove syringe from the injection cap.

8. Insert the medication syringe/tubing into injection cap and secure by turning.
9. Give the medication as instructed.
10. When medication is complete, remove syringe/tubing.
11. Inject 5cc of saline. Remove the syringe from the injection cap.
12. Inject _____cc of heparin solution into the injection cap and remove syringe from injection cap. During the last 0.1 mL of heparin, clamp the line.
13. Place syringes used to draw up medications in syringe disposal box.

Dressing Care:

Provides a clean environment for the PICC.

Prevents the tube from migrating or breaking.

The dressing is to be changed once a week by the clinic or home health nurse.

Do not allow the dressing to become soiled. Protect it from moisture.

Never use sharp instruments near PICC (example: scissors).

Do not allow PICC to migrate in or out.

If the dressing becomes loose or there is excessive drainage it should be changed immediately. Notify physician or home health nurse.