

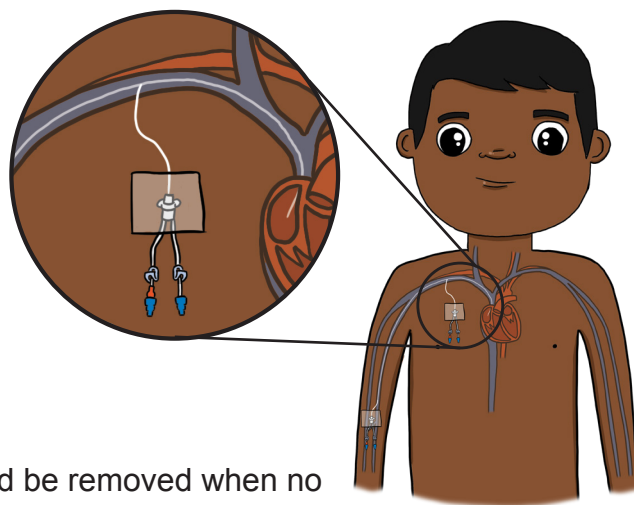
Central Venous Access

Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) (pur-if-er-al-ee)

A catheter is a long, narrow tube that is put into a large vein.

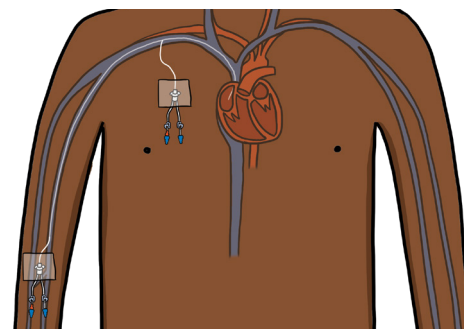
Why will a PICC be put in?

- So that bub needs less needles.
- It can stop veins getting damaged from many injections over a long time.
- It can be used to take blood - no needles into skin every time the doctor needs blood tests.
- It can be used to give medications and fluids.
- It can stay in for a long time (weeks or months) and be removed when no longer needed.



A PICC is usually put into a vein in the upper arm but can be placed on the chest. The tip of the PICC line is put into a larger vein closer to the heart.

- Bub may need anaesthesia (sleeping medicine) or sedating if they are young or unable to lie still.
- It can be placed while bub is awake.
- To put the PICC in can take time and it may take longer for younger bubs.



The most common problems with the PICC are:

- blockage of the line
- infection
- the line moves out of position.

The nurse will show you how to look after the PICC so you can do this when you and bub go home.

General care:

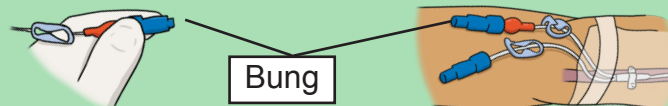
Hand washing – before and after touching or handling the PICC or dressing.



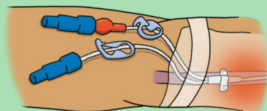
Clean the bung (end part of PICC line) with chlorhexidine antiseptic before and after use.

Keeping the dressing clean and dry – the dressing, tubing and ends of the PICC should be covered with a waterproof covering when bathing or showering.

Do not let the end of the line sit in bath water.



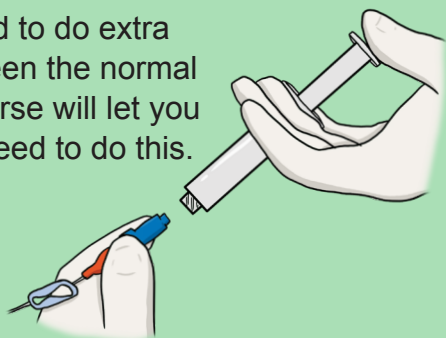
Check the insertion site and skin through the dressing every day. Tell your nurse or doctor if the skin looks red, swollen, or if there's any ooze or pain.



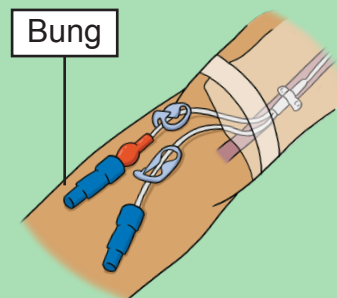
The PICC **must be flushed before and after giving every medication** or fluids. This helps to prevent blockage.

Always check that the bung and connections at the end of the PICC are on properly. When the PICC is not in use, the clamps must be closed.

You may need to do extra flushes between the normal times. The nurse will let you know if you need to do this.



The line clamp should be moved to a different place along the PICC each time to stop kinks or damage in the one spot.



- Keep an eye on bub and their PICC line. Bubs can get into all sorts of things that can damage the PICC.
- Bubs should not use scissors, knives or anything sharp that can cut or put a hole in the PICC.
- There are some things bub will not be able to do when the PICC is in, these include:
 - no contact sports
 - no rough play
 - no swimming/going under water
 - no heavy lifting - this can damage or move the PICC.
- Stop bub pulling at the line and moving the PICC.
- Bub can move their arm but not too much.

If you have any worries about bub's PICC call:

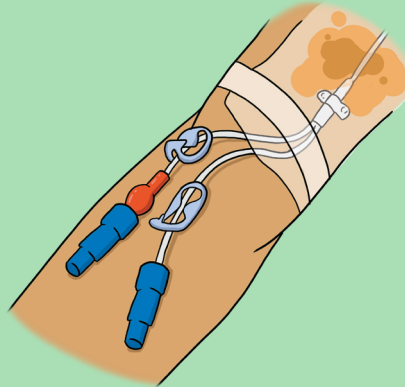
- HiTH or PAC patients – 6456 2222.
 - Oncology & Haematology patients – Parent Advice Line 24 hours a day 0410 717 816.
 - PCH CVAD Nurse – during office hours. Call switchboard on 6456 2222 and ask for CAVD nurse.
- Your nurse or doctor will let you know what to look for and what to do if problems happen at home.

Call Perth Children's Hospital or go to the Emergency Department if:

Bub has a fever.

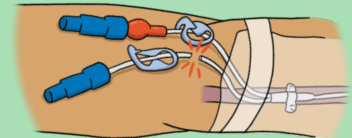


Bub's skin looks oozy, red or painful where the PICC line is.

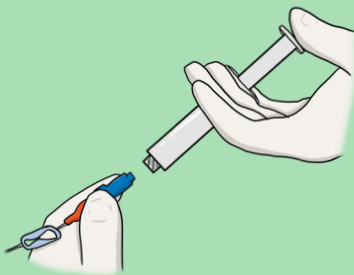


There is a break or hole in the PICC.

1. Try to clamp the PICC as close to the site as possible.
2. Cover the hole with gauze and tape in place.
3. **Go to the Emergency Department.**



If you think the PICC is blocked or you are unable to flush the PICC (for parents who have been taught to flush) or blood is seen in the line.



Bub is not themselves, quiet or tired and you are worried.

Go to the Emergency Department.



Bub has aches, swelling or pain in the arm, shoulder or neck.

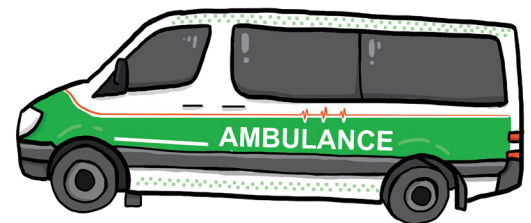
Go to the Emergency Department as soon as possible.



If you see:

- Bub's breathing changes quickly, becoming difficult or gasping for air.
- Bub becomes drowsy, pale or floppy.
- Bub has chest pains or their heart is beating fast.

Call an ambulance on 000 and clamp the PICC as close to the insertion site. Lay them on left side with head downwards if possible.



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Child and Adolescent Health Service

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