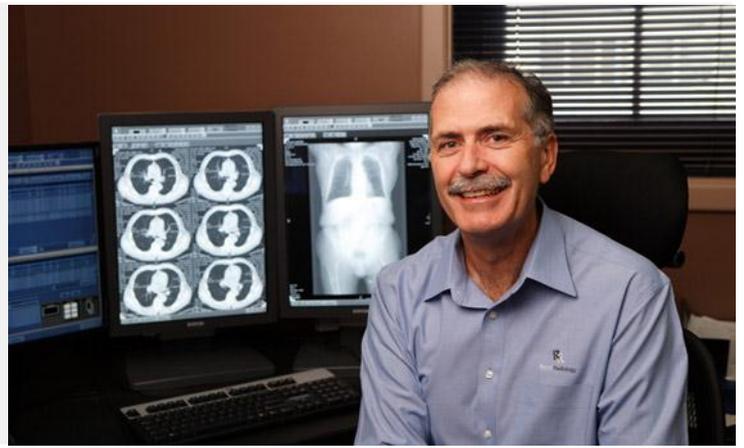


Name: _____

MRN: _____

Appointment Time: _____ AM / PM

Appointment Date: ____/____/____



PERIPHERALLY INSERTED CENTRAL CATHETER (PICC) PATIENT INFORMATION

What is a PICC?

A Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) is a long thin tube inserted into your upper arm. The PICC sits in a large vein just above the heart and allows easy administration of your medication, as well as being useful for taking blood samples. A PICC is able to stay in your arm for a long period of time, making treatment more comfortable as it reduces the number of skin punctures. The procedure is performed in the main radiology department by a radiologist with the assistance of a radiographer and two nurses.

What preparation is involved?

There is no preparation required.

Can I take my medication as normal?

Please let radiology staff know if you take any blood thinning medication prior to your procedure as you may need a blood test. All other medications can be continued as normal.

What will happen during the procedure?

The radiologist will explain the procedure to you and ask for your consent. You will change into a hospital gown and lie down on the table in the procedure room. A preliminary ultrasound scan will be performed to assess the veins in your arm. Your arm will then be cleaned with antiseptic and local anaesthetic given to make the insertion safe and more comfortable. Using sterile conditions the PICC will be inserted under ultrasound and x-ray guidance to ensure correct placement.

How long will the procedure take?

A PICC insertion usually takes 45 minutes but in some circumstances may take longer.

Are there any risks?

There is a small risk of minor bleeding, bruising or infection. Infection risk is minimized by using sterile, single use equipment and skin antiseptic.

The examination will involve a small dose of x-ray radiation. The benefits of treating a medical condition are believed to be greater than the risks from receiving a small dose of x-ray radiation.

Before your procedure, please tell the radiographer if you are, or think you may be pregnant.

What happens after the procedure?

Following the procedure, you will be asked to rest your arm for the remainder of the day. This helps with healing and reduces the chance of bleeding.

Can I drive after the procedure?

You should not drive for the rest of the day, as this may increase the chance of bleeding. Please arrange your transport on the day of your procedure.

Can I shower?

Yes, you can shower but it is important to keep the dressing dry and intact. When showering wrap the PICC and dressing in "cling wrap" or place your arm in a plastic bag, sealing the top and bottom of the bag with tape. If the dressing starts to come loose or

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Opening Hours: Monday—Friday, 8.30am—5pm

water is observed under the dressing, please notify the nurse looking after you for review.

Can I have a bath or swim?

PICC’s should not be immersed in water. Please advise your nurse or doctor if you need hydrotherapy or have any other special circumstances.

Can I exercise with a PICC?

You can move normally with a PICC, but strenuous movement is not advised as the PICC may move, e.g. golf, tennis.

When should my dressing be changed?

The dressing needs to be changed on the day after insertion and once a week after that. In some circumstances the dressing may require more frequent changing. Your nurse will change and monitor your dressing for you.

How long can the catheter stay in place?

The PICC is designed to stay in place for a long period of time, but each patient’s situation is unique. This depends on the intended use of the catheter, and maintaining correct PICC care.

If I have a treatment does the catheter need to be flushed?

After any treatment, the PICC must be flushed with 10mls of normal saline. If blood has been withdrawn through the PICC, it then requires a flush of 20mls of normal saline. If the PICC is not being used it only needs to be flushed once a week. Flushing of the PICC is performed by nursing staff. Correct flushing will prevent the PICC from blocking.

What happens if the catheter gets pulled out?

The catheter is anchored to your skin with a fixation device and is unlikely to come out unless it is pulled on. If you suspect that the catheter has moved call your nurse or doctor to have it assessed. This could necessitate an x-ray to check PICC position.

How will I know if something is wrong?

You should seek medical assistance if;

- You notice that more catheter is visible than previously and it looks like it has moved, please notify your nurse or doctor as this may need to be reviewed.
- You experience a low grade temperature and a feeling of general fatigue or weakness that lasts for more than 24 hours this may mean the beginning of an infection.
- You have a fever with a temperature higher than 38°C, contact your doctor or nurse immediately, or attend your nearest hospital with an emergency department.
- **If you notice changes at the insertion site, increased redness, swelling or pus, or swelling of the arm contact your doctor or nurse immediately.**

Sometimes the PICC may become blocked and your doctor or nurse may have difficulty in flushing it. They may ask for the PICC to be removed or replaced.

What happens to the PICC if it is damaged?

If the line is damaged in any way it will need to be repaired, or removed, as bacteria can enter your body through the line. If the PICC breaks while you are at home, secure the broken line in a clean dressing and contact the community nurse (if they are caring for you) or go to your nearest Emergency Department. It is important to get the PICC repaired immediately due to the risk of acquiring a bloodstream infection.

Who can I contact if I am not sure about something or require further information?

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact our radiology nursing staff on 8275 1961 during business hours and they will assist with your questions, or direct you to the most appropriate medical centre.

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/// PATIENT CONSENT FORM

Surname:
Given name(s):
Date of birth:
Sex:
MRN:

I _____ have been given the **Peripherally Inserted Central catheter Patient Information Sheet**.

I have read or have had read to me the patient information sheet and consent to have the procedure.

- I have been informed of the risks and benefits of this procedure.
- I was able to ask questions and raise any concerns about the proposed procedure. My questions and concerns have been discussed and answered to my satisfaction.
- I understand I have the right to change my mind at any time including after I have signed this form.

My signature below is evidence that I give my consent to have this medical procedure performed.

Patient Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Radiologist/delegate statement

I have explained to the patient the proposed procedure and confirm that the above named patient has read or has had read to them and understands the patient information sheet. The patient has consented to proceed with the procedure.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Designation: _____

Additional information discussed with patient: