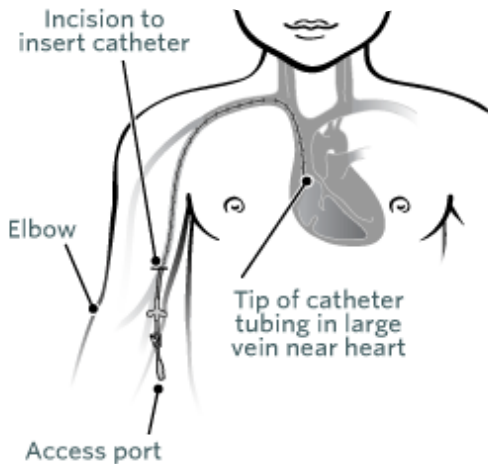


## Information about your Peripheral Inserted Central Catheter (PICC)

Your PICC was inserted on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) at McMaster Children's Hospital in the Interventional Radiology Department (IR)



Brand name of PICC: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_ French

Cuffed OR  Non-Cuffed

Entire length of catheter if known: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

Length catheter (from exit site to hub): \_\_\_\_\_ cm

Final flush:  Normal Saline OR  Heparin

OR \_\_\_\_\_ (refer to orders)

Dressing last changed on: \_\_\_\_\_

Needleless Connector last changed on: \_\_\_\_\_

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### When you get home:

Your PICC will need routine care such as weekly dressing changes and routine flushing. A visiting nurse will see you in your home or nearby clinic. The nurse will give you medications, change the dressing, provide PICC care and teach you about caring for the PICC at home.

The Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) will organize your homecare nursing appointments and delivery of supplies to your home. It is important to keep the supplies in a safe place that is clean and dry.

### The dressing:

The PICC site must **always** be covered with a dressing. This is important to keep this area free of germs. Keeping the dressing covered and dry reduces the chance of germs entering the body and causing an infection.

### Bathing:

To help prevent infection, you should shower/bathe every day. Keep the dressing dry while you shower/bathe by wrapping the PICC in plastic wrap. After bathing, change into clean clothes every day to help your PICC stay clean.

**When your nurse comes to your home to provide PICC care:**

Set aside 30-60 minutes. Consider finding an ideal place with:

- Good lighting
- A comfortable spot to sit or lie down
- A clean surface for supplies



Remember, everyone must wash their hands before doing anything with the PICC, tubing or dressing.

**Problems to watch for:**

Problem:	What to do:
	<i><b>always wash your hands before touching the line</b></i>
The dressing is lifting, or has come off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cover with another clean dressing</li> <li>• Call your visiting nurse</li> </ul>
The dressing is soaked with clear fluid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not remove the dressing</li> <li>• Call your visiting nurse</li> </ul>
The dressing is soaked with blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not remove the dressing</li> <li>• Apply pressure with another dressing or clean cloth</li> <li>• Call your visiting nurse</li> <li>• If bleeding is a lot, or does not stop go to <b>Emergency Department immediately</b></li> </ul>
The area around the PICC is red, swollen, tender or sore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call your visiting nurse</li> </ul>
If you develop fevers, chills or sweating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go to <b>Emergency Department immediately</b></li> </ul>
The cap at end of the PICC is loose or it falls off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the PICC has a clamp, make sure it is closed off</li> <li>• Clean off the end of the PICC with an alcohol wipe</li> <li>• Put on a new cap and go to Emergency Department</li> </ul>
If you notice the PICC line is leaking or cracked	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cover the crack with tape or clean dressing and go to Emergency Department</li> </ul>

**If there is trouble breathing call 911. If you are unsure of what to do or have concerns about the PICC, call your visiting nurse**

**What happens when the PICC is no longer needed?** The doctor who ordered your antibiotics will organize the removal of your PICC line. If your PICC line is cuffed, you will have an appointment booked in the Intervention Radiology Department at McMaster Children’s Hospital to have your line removed. There is no special preparation needed for this appointment.