

Your Child's PICC at Starship



PICC

What is a PICC (Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter)?

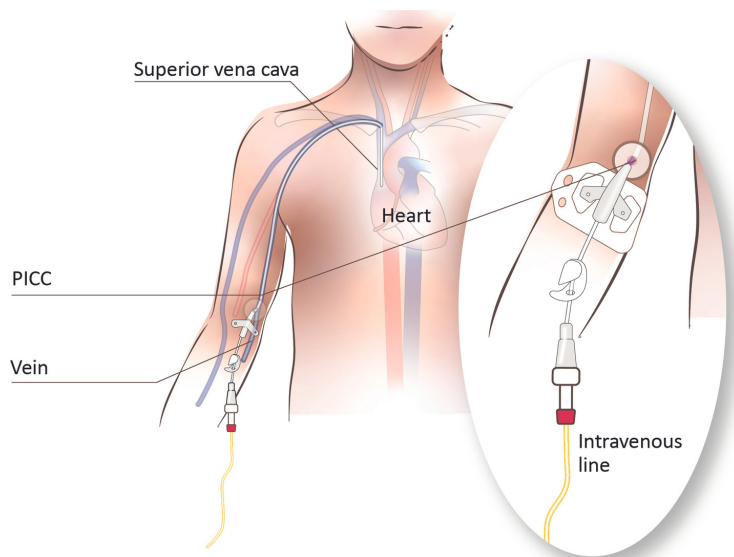
A peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) is a long, thin, flexible tube that is usually placed into a vein in the upper arm and moved into a large vein close to the heart. A PICC is a type of central venous access device and it allows easy access to your child's bloodstream.

How is a PICC Inserted?

PICC insertion is a minor procedure, where patients will need to stay very still. Babies and young children usually need a general anaesthetic. In older children, this procedure can be done awake. X-ray is done to make sure the PICC is in the right place. The end of the PICC that is outside the body is then kept in place with a special device and is covered with a see-through dressing to keep it clean.

Why does my child need a PICC?

A PICC is useful when weeks of IV treatment is needed and it can stay in for months if working well.



Care and Maintenance

- Keep the PICC dry and out of water when bathing or showering
- Take care when dressing your child to make sure the PICC is not pulled
- When the PICC is not being used it will be 'hep-locked'. Hep-locking is when a medicine called heparinised saline is placed in the catheter to prevent blood from clotting in the catheter
- Every 7 days the nurse will check your child's PICC to make sure it is working well and place new heparinised saline in the catheter
- The needle free connector is changed every 4 days when in use and every 7 days if the PICC has not been used
- The dressing is changed every 7 days. This involves carefully taking off the old dressing, cleaning the exit site and putting on a new dressing

If you need to give your child medications through the PICC at home, you will be provided with the education and information to do so

When and how is a PICC removed?

A PICC can stay in for weeks to months and is removed at the end of treatment or when it is no longer needed. In most cases PICC removal is a simple procedure and will be done by your nurse. A dressing will be applied for 1-2 days until the skin is healed.

Potential Complications

- Blockage in the PICC – this may be fixed with anti-clotting medication. If the PICC remains blocked it may need to be removed
- Infection – monitor your child's temperature and check the exit site for signs of swelling, redness or pain

If the Catheter is pulled out:

Apply pressure immediately to the exit site and contact your homecare nurse, local hospital or ward straight away.

If the Catheter breaks:

Immediately clamp the catheter between the break and the body with the clamp from your safety pack. If you are unable to clamp the catheter, fold the catheter on itself and tape the fold together to work as the clamp. Contact your homecare nurse, local hospital or ward straight away.

If the dressing starts to lift or come off:

Cover it with a dressing from the safety pack and contact your homecare nurse for a dressing change. The safety pack should include sterile gauze, a clamp, a dressing and any additional supplies specific to your child's care.

Please take your child's temperature each day

If your child's temperature is above 38°C, please notify the Homecare Nurse, Nurse Specialist, the ward or Starship Children's Emergency Department. Oncology patients to inform ward 27A/B or contact local shared care centre immediately.



Questions and Additional Notes

Contact Number(s)