

Access of PICC / Central Lines and monitoring Protocol

PICC Line

Peripherally inserted central catheter use for IV fluids and medication. Usually inserted in the arm, feeds into the superior vena cava. Can be up to 60 cm long. Single lumen or dual lumen.

When to access PICC line

No peripheral IV can be accessed.

How to access PICC line

- Pick lumen you will use and “scrub the hub” with alcohol prep or chlorhexidine swab for approx 1 minute and allow to dry. Either lumen can be used.
- Attach flush and withdraw to check for placement (draw some blood into the line).
- Flush the line with saline.
- Attach IV line or medications.
- Flush line after completion with “turbulent” flushing and clamp while under pressure.

Equipment needed

- Scrub the hub or alcohol swap.
- Saline flush.

Issues with PICC lines

- Dislodgement / Unable to get blood return.
- Blood clot in the PICC line
- Accidental removal (put pressure on the sight to control bleeding).

Caution:

If any issues with the PICC line, DO NOT USE IT. Start a peripheral IV.