

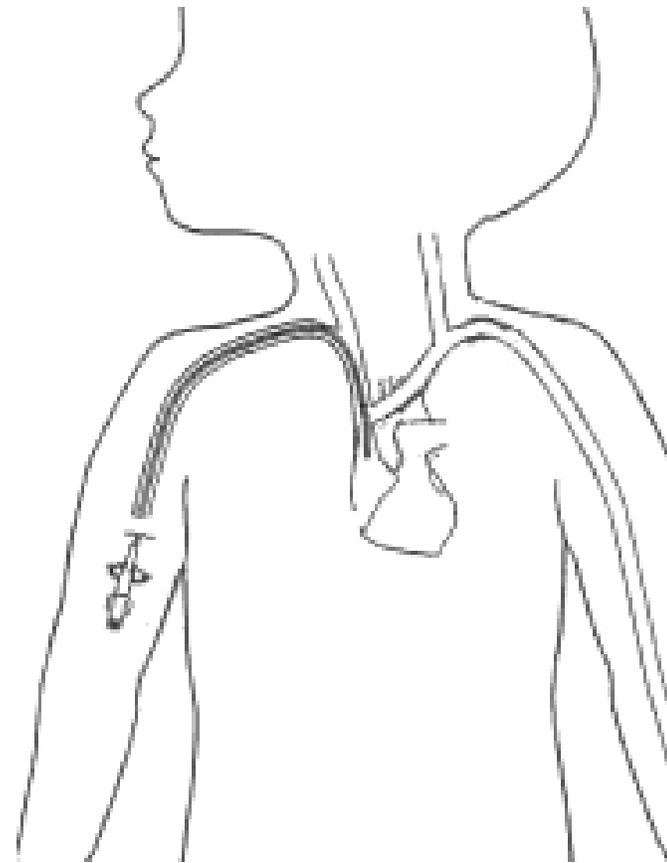
# Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter



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## Your Doctor has requested a PICC line for your child. What is it?

A Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) is a small flexible tube that is inserted in the arm above the elbow. The tube floats in the vein with the end of the tube resting in the large vessel close to the heart.



PICC lines are inserted on inpatient units or in our Radiology department. Special equipment is used to ensure the best placement of the catheter. The PICC team will schedule a time with you for this procedure. You will be asked to sign consent form for the procedure. The staff will tell you about any risks at this time, and you may ask any questions that you have.

Your child may remain awake for the procedure or he/she may receive a medicine by mouth to help them relax. If needed, your child may be given medicine to make him/her sleep during the procedure. A specialized Doctor will give this medicine and care for your child. Do not give your child anything to eat or drink before the procedure. You will be given instructions as to how long your child must not eat before this procedure.

Talk to your child's nurse if you are unsure about which option would work best for your child.

Your child's nurse and the IV team will help to care for your child's PICC line. This will include dressing changes and checking for the placement of the PICC line. The staff can answer any questions you have.

Illustration used with permission from the St. Louis Children's Hospital

A PICC line is used to give intravenous (IV) therapy that is irritating to the smaller veins such as antibiotics and intravenous nutrition (TPN). It is recommended for IV treatment needed for longer than 5 days.

*Developed by the health professional in the IV Home Therapy Program with assistance from the Department of Learning and Development.*