

# Cuffed Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC)



## Home IV Therapy Program

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## What is a cuffed PICC?

A **cuffed Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC)** is a soft tube. The PICC enters a vein in your child's arm. The tube floats in the vein. The end sits in the large vein close to the heart. The blood flows quickly in this vein. It is a good place for IV (intravenous) fluids and medicine to enter the blood.

The cuff on the PICC rests under the skin at the **exit site**. The exit site is where the catheter leaves your child's body. Body tissue grows around the cuff. This helps to anchor the catheter in place.

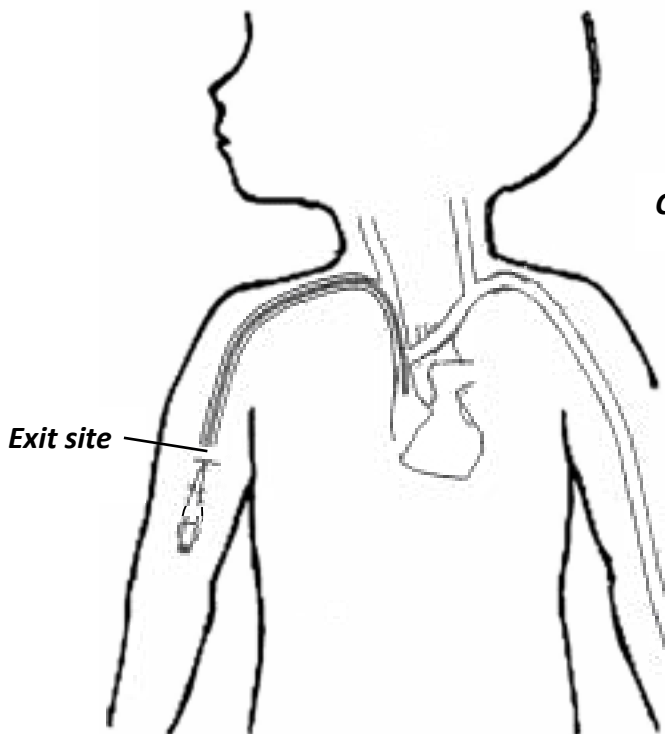
## Why does your child need a Cuffed PICC?

A doctor may suggest a cuffed PICC if your child needs:

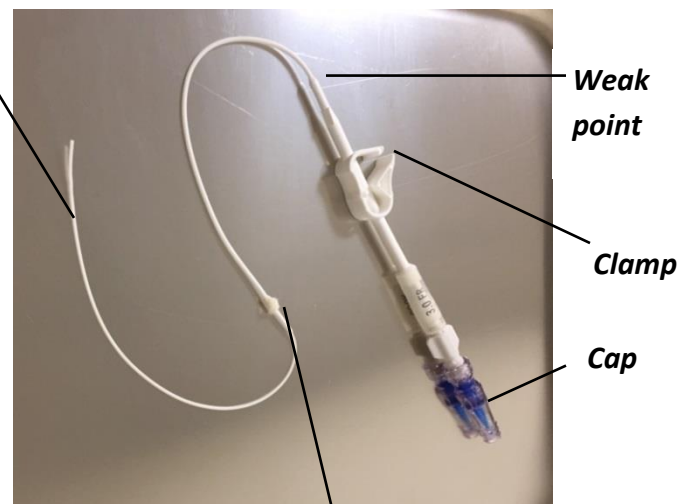
- IV medicine that can bother small veins
- IV nutrition if your child is not eating
- Frequent blood tests
- Help keeping the catheter in place.

## The parts of a cuffed PICC

- The **catheter** is a thin, flexible tube.
- A **cuff** (also called a dacron cuff) that rests under the skin
- A **cap** that goes on the end of the catheter, outside the body
- A **clamp** stops fluid from going into or out of the catheter



Catheter



Weak point

Clamp

Cap

Cuff

The catheter will be coiled and covered with a clear dressing or bandage. This helps to keep the catheter in place.

Ask your nurse to show you the **weak point**. Make sure it is not kinked. Keep it secure under the dressing or bandage.

Body tissue will grow around the cuff in 4 to 8 weeks.

Your nurse will change the dressing:

- A week after the PICC is put in
- Once a week
- When wet or dirty
- When the coil has slipped out.



*Coil under clear bandage*

## Caring for your child's cuffed PICC

Before you go home, your nurse will teach you how to:

- Manage emergencies

- Cover a peeling dressing or bandage with a new dressing
- Keep the inside of the PICC clean and sterile
- Clamp the catheter
- Check that the tubing and cap are closed 'finger tight'
- Secure the tubing to your child's clothing. Do not let your child pull on the tubing!

Your nurse may also show you how to:

- Heparin flush your child's catheter once a day
- Change the PICC dressing and cap.

## When you get home

**Get moving.** Encourage your child to move their arm gently. Your doctor will tell you which activities will be safest. Your child should not swim, or do contact sports like football.

## Stop infections.

- Wash your hands before touching the PICC.
- Make sure the dressing is secure.
- Keep the inside of the PICC sterile. Follow the instructions from your nurse.
- Keep the area clean and dry.
- Keep the dressing dry in the bath or shower. Before a bath or shower, cover the dressing. You can use a plastic bag, plastic wrap, or press and seal wrap. Seal the

plastic around the dressing with waterproof tape.

## What should I watch out for?

### Dressing lifting off

- **What to do:** Put a dressing on top of the dressing that is lifting off.
- **How to avoid it:** Keep the dressing clean and dry. A little bleeding at the exit site is normal for the first few days, there may be a brown powder to stop bleeding.

### Loose or cracked cap

- **You may notice:**
  - The cap is loose or off.
  - Fluid or blood leaking from the cap.
- **What to do:**
  - Scrub the connection with an alcohol swab.
  - Change the cap. **Do not reuse the old one.**

### Blocked catheter

- **You may notice:**
  - It is more difficult to flush the catheter. Or, you are unable to flush the catheter. **Do not use force.**
  - If you use a pump, it may show high pressure.
- **What to do:**
  - Call your child's doctor **right away. You may need to come to the hospital.**

### Infection

- **You may notice:**
  - A fever of over 38 degrees Celsius.

- Chills.
- Redness, swelling, heat, pain or oozing at the exit site.
- Your child is grouchy or tired.
- **What to do:**
  - Take your child to Emergency. A blood sample will need to be taken from the PICC line to check for infection.

### Break in the catheter

- **What to do:**
  - **Clamp** the catheter between the exit site and the break.
  - **Cover** the break with sterile gauze.
  - **Call** your child's doctor **right away.** Then, call the IV Team.

**Always keep a clamp with you.**



*Clamp*

### Catheter comes out

- **What to do:**
  - Put pressure at the exit site. Use gauze.
  - Check the catheter length. Has the full catheter come out?

- Keep the catheter to show your care team.
- Call your child's doctor **right away**. Then, call the IV Team.

## About your child's PICC

PICC inserted by

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Date inserted

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PICC size

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Total length of catheter

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Weekly dressing change on

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call, and will answer as soon as possible. If there is no answer right away, leave a message.

- IV Team hours:
  - Mon – Fri, 7am – 10 pm
  - Weekends, 8 am – 8 pm
  - Holidays, 8 am – 8 pm
- **To page us**, call 604 875-4200, pager 01118. Enter your phone number when you hear the prompt.
- **To leave a private voice message**, call 604 875-2345, local 1982.

**If you have non-urgent questions about your child's catheter**, call the IV team 604 875-2345, local 1982.

**To send us a picture**, email the IV Team at [ivtherapy@cw.bc.ca](mailto:ivtherapy@cw.bc.ca).

**For dressing changes and regular blood sample appointments**, call the Medical Day Unit at 604-875-3680.

**To reach the Emergency Department**, call 605-875-2045.

## Who to call?

**If your child's catheter is blocked, broken, or comes out:**

1. **Call your child's doctor.** If they are not working, talk to the doctor on call.
2. **Call the IV Team.**
  - **To reach us right away**, call 604-875-2445. Say 'IV Team' when you hear the prompt. All IV Team members on duty will hear your

It's good to ask!