

# Caring for your peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC)

## Information for patients

The aim of this leaflet is to help answer some of the common questions you may have about having a PICC. It is not intended to be exhaustive, but explains what can be expected before, during and after the procedure. If you would like further information, or have any worries, please do not hesitate to ask your nurse or doctor.

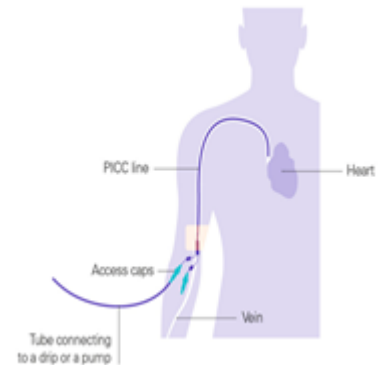
**NAME:**

### **Confirming your identity**

Before you have a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you your name and date of birth and check your ID band. If you do not have an ID band we will also ask you to confirm your address. If we do not ask these questions, then please ask us to check. Ensuring your safety is our primary concern.

## What is a PICC?

A PICC is a peripherally inserted central catheter. It is a long, thin flexible tube usually inserted in one of the veins in the upper arm just above the elbow and guided into a large vein near the heart using ultrasound and ECG technology. It is held in place with a skin fixation device, for example Statlock, Grip-Lok or SecurAcath. The PICC can stay in until treatment is completed. PICCs are inserted by specialist nurses from the Vascular Access Team or a doctor.



## Why do I need a PICC and what are the benefits?

PICCs are used to administer a variety of different intravenous (IV) therapies over a long period, some of which can cause discomfort, pain and damage to your veins, for example, chemotherapy. Having a PICC will:

- reduce irritation to the veins
- stop repeated needle stick for cannulation and blood draw
- allow for safe administration of all IV medication straight to your bloodstream
- reduce the length of time you stay in hospital

### Consent

We must by law obtain your written consent to any operation and some other procedures beforehand. Staff will explain the risks, benefits and alternatives before they ask you to sign a consent form. If you are unsure about any aspect of the treatment proposed, please do not hesitate to ask to speak with a senior member of staff again.

Biopatch is applied to the insertion site before applying a standard sterile transparent IV dressing. The Biopatch is designed to continuously release CHG antiseptic onto the insertion site and is regularly changed as part of dressing change.



STICKER LABEL HERE

**Your PICC line information**

Date of placement: \_\_\_\_\_

Catheter type: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Lumen: **Single / Double**

Size: **4Fr / 5 Fr**

Site of insertion: **Right / Left**

Vein: \_\_\_\_\_

Length: Internal = \_\_\_\_\_ cm ; External= \_\_\_\_\_ cm

Securement device used:

**SecurAcath** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grip-Lok** \_\_\_\_\_

**Statlock** \_\_\_\_\_

NB: You can have a scan/MRI with the SecurAcath. It does not need to be changed weekly, and will only be removed when the catheter is removed.

**PICC line MUST be removed as soon as the treatment stops.**

**For further assistance, please contact:**

Vascular Access Team (Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm)

King's College Hospital: 020 3299 7709

Princess Royal University Hospital and South Sites: 01689 864231

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Possible cause</b>	<b>What to do</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redness and/or tenderness around upper arm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May occur in first few days of line being inserted</li> <li>Vein irritated by line</li> <li>Medication has leaked from line, very rare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact nursing team of the ward you were discharged from (they may need further advice from King's Vascular Access (VA) team)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fever, chills</li> <li>Soreness, redness or pus at the insertion site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may have infection in your line</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take temperature</li> <li>Call GP and nursing team</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blood oozing from insertion site – usually a few days after insertion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trauma at the insertion site, or low blood platelets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The nurse may apply pressure dressing or gauze to stop the bleeding and report if it does not stop</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swollen arm and/or neck</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible clot formation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Go to A&amp;E</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flushing problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Line may be clamped or kinked</li> <li>Line may be blocked</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not force flush</li> <li>Unclamp and/or remove any kinks</li> <li>Nursing team to contact King's VA Team as soon as possible to have line unblocked</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaking from the line</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bung not securely connected to PICC line</li> <li>A small hole in the line</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wash hands and tighten the bung</li> <li>If there is a leak in the line, clamp or fold it over and pinch it between the leak and the skin. Call the King's VA Team as soon as possible</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>External length of the line increased</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Line is pulled out slightly by accident</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not push line back in</li> <li>Cover with gauze and secure this with tape</li> <li>Call nursing team as soon as possible</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PICC line accidentally comes out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pulled or snagged unintentionally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get some sterile gauze, press down on the site for at least five minutes</li> <li>Seek medical assistance</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whooshing sound in ear. Discomfort in the jaw, ear, teeth or face on PICC side of body</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Line may have moved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stop medication</li> <li>Contact nursing team or GP</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numbness or tingling in the arm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excessive bruising or swelling in the arm causing nerve pressure</li> <li>Line causing nerve irritation (very rare)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stop medication</li> <li>Contact nursing team or GP to refer you for further investigation</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redness or itchy skin where the dressing applied</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitivity to skin cleansing solution or dressing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nursing team should seek advice from King's VA Team. May need to consider alternative cleansing solution, dressing or possible use of skin barrier</li> </ul>
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## Sharing your information

We have teamed up with Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in a partnership known as King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas'. To make sure everyone you meet always has the most up-to-date information about your health, we may share information about you between the hospitals.

## Care provided by students

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your dentist if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

## PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives, and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams. The PALS office is located on the ground floor of the Hambleton Wing, near the main entrance on Bessemer Road - staff will be happy to direct you.

PALS at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS

Tel: 020 3299 3601

Email: [kch-tr.palsdh@nhs.net](mailto:kch-tr.palsdh@nhs.net)

**If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact our Communications and Interpreting telephone line on 020 3299 4826 or email [kch-tr.accessibility@nhs.net](mailto:kch-tr.accessibility@nhs.net)**