



## **PICC (PERIPHERALLY INSERTED CENTRAL CATHETER) VERSUS TUNNELED CENTRAL LINE EDUCATION**

### **Information:**

A PICC (peripherally inserted central catheter) is a catheter placed into a vein in your arm. Tunneled PICCs are tunneled under the right or left chest placed into the largest vein (internal jugular vein) in the body with the tip of the catheter ending in the vein that enters the heart. These lines are used for long term antibiotic therapy and sometimes for chemotherapy. These lines need to be kept covered with a sterile dressing to reduce risk of contracting a systemic infection.

### **What should I expect after the PICC placement?**

- The area around the PICC may be tender following insertion.
- You may have some mild pain or muscle soreness. This is normal. You can take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) (not to exceed 3,000 mg/day) or other non-aspirin pain medicine to alleviate discomfort.
- Dressing over the PICC or tunneled line is necessary to prevent infection that can go systemic (throughout your body)
- Once the PICC is no longer required, it will be removed. The removal process will be similar to insertion, performed under local anesthetic.

### **Bathing & Wound Care:**

- You may shower after the PICC has been inserted. However, keep the sterile dressing clean and dry post placement, this may include applying saran wrap with duct tape to keep a clean and dry access site. If the dressing gets damp it will need to be changed immediately.
- No baths, hot tubs, rivers or lakes submersions of the access site to decrease the risk of infection.
- Protect the skin over your PICC. Don't wear tight bras, suspenders, or carry a purse or bag across your chest if this is a tunneled line on your chest.

### **Follow-up visit information:**

Call your primary doctor after discharge for a follow-up appointment if you don't already have one. Follow up with Interventional Radiology is not routinely necessary.

### **Occasionally, a situation will require prompt attention and an emergency room visit is necessary:**

- Chest pain
- Pain, swelling, redness or drainage of pus around the PICC site
- Swelling of the neck, face or arm on the side where the PICC was inserted
- Shortness of breath or dizziness

With these urgent situations, please call Medford Radiology to see what your best course of action is.

### **If you received Conscious Sedation (IV sedation) and are discharged the same-day:**

- You must have someone drive you home when you leave the hospital.
- For 24 hours after your procedure, do not do anything where you need to be mentally alert. This includes making important decisions, operating machinery, signing important papers, or DRIVE etc.
- Eat light for the first 24 hours, and then start eating more as you are able. Drink plenty of fluids.
- If you are taking pain medications:

- Take as directed
- Do not drink alcohol while taking narcotic pain medication
- Do not drive
- If you are constipated, drink more fluids and eat more fiber. You can also use an over-the-counter stool softener.

**For any questions please contact Oregon Interventional Radiology Clinic at 541-618-5801**

**In all emergency situations call 911**