



PICC line insertion

What Is a PICC line insertion?

A PICC (Peripherally inserted central catheter) is a long thin tube that is inserted to the upper arm to enable the delivery of medication via a central vein.

- It can be used for many reasons, including long term IV antibiotics, IV therapy, chemotherapy and regular blood tests.
- If cared for properly, a PICC line can last several months.
- This is usually done under fluoroscopic guidance.

What Happens During the Procedure?

- You will be positioned laying on your back with your arm outstretched.
- A tourniquet will be applied to the upper arm.
- The Radiologist will use ultrasound to plan the procedure and administer local anaesthetic to the area.
- Image guidance will be used to confirm the PICC line is in the best possible position
- The PICC line is secured to the arm with a special dressing to prevent infection.

Informed consent and risks

You will be asked to sign a consent form, on the day of your procedure.

Below are some of the risks of the procedure, these will be discussed with you on the day of your procedure:

- Infection
- Bleeding and bruising
- Damage to surrounding structures

What Happens After The Procedure?

- Usually you are discharged immediately if you are feeling well.
- It is important you do not remove or wet the dressing.
- At your appointment, you will be given discharge instructions on how to care for your PICC
- The referring doctor will organise for a nurse to change your dressing every 7 days, or as needed

It is anticipated that you will be discharged from hospital on the same day however there is always the chance that you may need to stay overnight.

Please make sure you have someone to drive you home after the procedure and stay with you overnight.

You will receive some discharge information on the day of your procedure from the team, with instructions on how to look after your PICC line