

Radiology Department **PICC Line Placements**

About the procedure

PICC line placements are done on patients who will need long-term intravenous medications. Some blood tests, such as a bleeding time test, may be performed prior to the exam. This exam also requires that two consent forms (also known as informed consent) be signed prior to the start of the exam by the patient.

An informed consent means that the patient understands the reason for the procedure and has a general idea of what will be done during the procedure. The first consent is for the procedure itself, and the second consent is for the contrast media that will be utilized during the exam. Some patients cannot sign their own consent and will require a family member or someone with power of attorney to accompany him or her for the procedure and sign the consents.

PICC lines are very similar to an IV, but they are longer, which makes them more stable, and are placed on the inside of the upper arm.

For the procedure, the patient will be placed on the table facing up with their arm out to the side. This is a sterile procedure, so a technologist will wash the arm and place blue sterile sheets around it. The radiologist will then come into the room and look at the veins with a small ultrasound machine. After locating a vein, the doctor will “numb” the area with lidocaine. The PICC line catheter will then be put in through a needle that is inserted into the vein. A dressing will then be applied, and a picture of your catheter will be taken.

Instructions for after care will be sent home with you and the Radiologist will send a report of the procedure to your physician. Contact your physician immediately if you notice any problems with your PICC line, or you can contact us at (219) 757-6085.

How long does the procedure take?

On the average, the procedure takes one hour. In some cases, the procedure can go up to 2 or even 3 hours if there is difficulty in accessing the vein.

How to prepare

- This test is scheduled through our Central Scheduling department 757-6475. The schedulers are available from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Bring your order for your exam with you.
- Do not eat or drink four (4) hours prior to the procedure.
- You may take your prescribed medication if needed.
- Leave all jewelry and valuables at home and wear comfortable clothing with no metal on clothing.

- Arrive at the hospital 30 minutes before the start of your test if an admitting clerk has registered you over the phone in the day or days prior to your test.
- Park in the hospital parking lot near the Admitting Entrance, and enter through the Admitting doors.
- You can go directly to Radiology if:
 - You are pre-registered for your test.
 - If you are not pre-registered, and it is between 8:00 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday. A registration clerk is in Radiology during these hours and days.
- At all other times not listed above, please report to Admitting to be registered for testing.
- If you have any questions about scheduling, registration, or insurance, please contact the admitting staff at 757-6217.
- If you have any questions please feel free to call and speak with a Radiologic technologist at 757-6085.