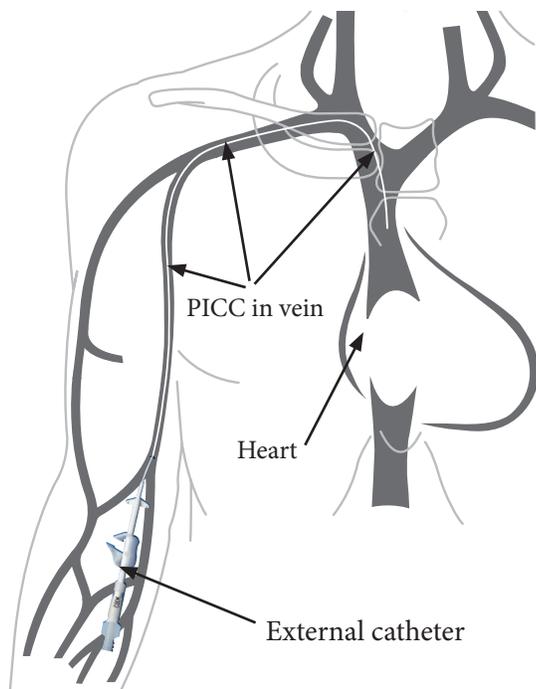


Getting Ready for Your PICC

What is a PICC?

A PICC (peripherally inserted central catheter) is a long, thin, flexible tube. It is placed into a large vein at or above the bend of your elbow. The tube is then threaded through the vein until the tip reaches another large vein in your chest.

You will receive IV medicines and fluids through your PICC. Your care team may also draw blood samples through the PICC.



With proper care, your PICC can remain in place for weeks or months. You will need to keep the skin around the PICC clean and dry. Keep it covered with a bandage to prevent infection.

How is the PICC inserted?

A specially trained nurse or a doctor will place your PICC. Before placement, the nurse or doctor will describe what will occur as well as the [possible risks](#). He or she will ask you to sign a consent form.

PICC placement usually takes about 30 to 60 minutes. It may be done in your hospital room, a procedure room or another area (such as Interventional Radiology).

- Sterile drapes will surround your arm. These will help prevent infection. Once the drapes are in place, you should not touch them or move your arm unless we ask you to.
- We will give you medicine to numb the area where the PICC will be placed.
- The nurse or doctor will insert the PICC into your vein. You should feel pressure, but no pain. He or she will thread the PICC through the vein until it reaches your chest.
- Once the PICC is in place, we will take an X-ray to confirm that it is in the right position.

If you will go home with the PICC, you or a family member will receive details on how to care for it. See *Caring for Your PICC at Home* ([item # 520785](#)).

What are the risks?

Possible risks include, but are not limited to:

- Redness, pain or swelling at the tube site.
- Infection.
- Bleeding.
- Blood clots. (Portions of these clots may break off and travel to other parts of the body. Your doctor can tell you about your risk.)
- Irregular heartbeat.
- A drop in blood pressure or heart rate.
- We may be unable to move the tube through the vein. If so, we may need to use another vein.
- The tube may break open or become blocked.

We will watch you closely during and after PICC placement while you are in the hospital. If there are any problems, we will treat them right away.