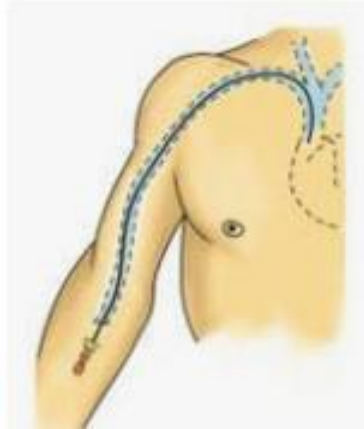


## INFORMATION LEAFLETS FOR PARENTS / CARERS OF A CHILD

### For discharge or temporary leave from hospital with a PICC line in situ



#### **This information will help you care for your child after discharge or when on temporary leave from the hospital with a PICC line**

- A (Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter) PICC line, is a soft fine hollow tube that is inserted into a vein used to deliver fluid, nutrition, antibiotics, chemotherapy, blood products or medication your child requires
- The PICC line travels up a vein inside their arm into a larger vein just above the heart
- The PICC line is a long term access device that can remain in place and function for many months
- When your child no longer needs the PICC line it will be removed by a community nurse or in hospital

#### **How do I care for my child's PICC line?**

- Before leaving the hospital you will be taught how to safely care for your child's PICC line
- If you are caring for your child's PICC line at home, you need to know;
- How to prevent infection and damage to the PICC line?
- Signs and symptoms to be concerned about
- Who to contact if you need help or have any questions
- Observe the dressing and insertion site daily for redness or swelling and ensure dressing is intact and secure
- Always wash your hands before handling the PICC line
- Keep the PICC line covered at all times so it is not accidentally pulled out or removed
- Ensure a needle free device is in place at the end of the PICC and the clamp if present is closed
- Ensure the PICC line and needle free is covered when washing or showering with waterproof tape the dressing must be changed if it becomes wet

**Knowing how to care for and manage the PICC line ensures that it remains in place for the length of treatment. Once your child goes home with a PICC line, you may need to access professional care in your home to provide support. Your child's PICC line will need a flush to prevent it from blocking. A dressing change weekly or when needed will be required - generally this is done by the hospital or your community nurse.**

## Things to avoid

- Avoid rough strenuous and repetitive play that may cause damage or infection to the PICC line
- Only allow your child to return to school on orders of your child's doctor
- Do not allow your child to swim with a PICC line in place. Don't allow your child to play with or remove the PICC dressing
- Don't allow pets near the PICC line
- Don't allow your child to play in dirt or a sandpit as the PICC line may become dirty causing an infection
- Inform dentist that your child has a PICC line in situ and liaise with your consultant before undergoing dental treatment



- If your child has chest pain or difficulty breathing, this is an emergency, lie your child on their left side with their head down, check and see if the PICC line is broken or the needlefree has come off, cover any break with additional dressing provided and call an ambulance.
- If your child develops a temperature or chills, is feeling generally unwell and / or there is swelling of hands arm or shoulder area, heat or redness around the PICC line site contact the hospital number and attend the emergency department
- If your child has leaking or drainage at the PICC line site keep as clean as possible cover with dressing provided and contact hospital number or attend emergency department
- If your child's dressing comes loose do not remove the dressing secure with spare dressings and contact hospital number or attend emergency department
- If your child's PICC line appears longer or shorter secure the PICC line to prevent further movement and contact hospital number provided or attend emergency department
- If your child's PICC line has fallen out apply pressure at the insertion site with two fingers and gauze, hold for five minutes or until bleeding has stopped contact hospital number provided or attend emergency department
- If your child's needle free has fallen off, ensure clamp is closed and cover with additional dressing provided contact hospital number provided or attend emergency department

## What will I need to look after the PICC line?

- Before your child is discharged your child's nurse will provide you with information on follow up and the following supplies
- Sterile gauze pack
- Spare tegaderm advance dressing
- Elastoplast

## Important information to know before leaving hospital

- When will my child return to the hospital?
- Who will give my child's regular medication and or flush?
- Who will do my child's dressing change when needed?
- PICC line type/size
- Insertion date
- Number of lumens
- Exposed length of PICC line if appropriate-

Contact Numbers & Details		
Title	Name	Contact No
Consultants Name		
Team CNSp		
Ward Contact No		
Emergency Department No		
Public Health Nurse		
Community Nurse		

*We encourage parents carer's to take a photo of the numbers provided above on your phone so these details are at hand when needed*

### Hospital Addressograph

Insert Addressograph here

Hospital Appointment Details		
Date	Time	Appointment with

### **Remember:**

**Ask your nurse if you are unsure about anything about your child's care**

### Additional instructions


Developed by Eileen O'Loughlin CNSp in PICC service & C Hopkins CNSp in OPAT

Date issued: December 2018 / Date of review: December 2021

Disclaimer & Copyright ©2021, Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin, Dublin 12. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the copyright holder. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided is accurate and in accord with standards accepted at the time of printing.