

# PICC Removal

## (Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter)

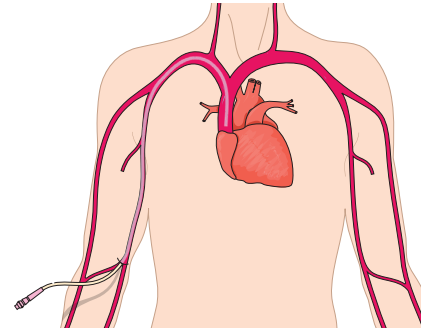
### Why do I need to have my PICC removed?

Your PICC is removed if your:

- Treatment is finished
- Remaining treatment doesn't need a PICC
- PICC has developed problems

### What will happen before my procedure?

- You may eat and drink as you normally do.
- Your healthcare provider will review your chart and do an assessment before your PICC is removed.



### What will happen at my procedure?

Your procedure will take about 30 minutes while you are seated or lying down. You will **not** need a local anesthetic (freezing the area).

#### Your healthcare provider:

- May put a warm compress on your PICC site for 10 to 15 minutes.
- Will clean your PICC site to prevent infection.
- Will remove your PICC by using a slow, "pulling" motion.
- May ask you to hold your breath, hum, or breathe out as they remove the PICC.

### Will the procedure hurt?

You will feel some pressure, pulling or both during the procedure, but you should not feel pain. If you do feel pain, tell your healthcare provider.

### What will happen after the procedure?

- Your healthcare provider will apply firm pressure for about 5 to 10 minutes to the site until the bleeding stops.
- After the bleeding stops, your healthcare provider will put a bandage over the site.
- A nurse will tell you when you may leave and will check that the site is not bleeding.
- You will be able to drive yourself home.

## How do I care for the site when I get home?

- Do not shower for 24 hours.
- Do not put your arm with the PICC line in water for at least 24 hours.
- Keep the area covered, clean and dry for 24 hours to let the site heal.

## It's been 24 hours since my procedure. What should I do now?

You may:

- Remove the bandage.
- Go back to your normal tasks.

### What do I need to watch for?

1. If the site begins to bleed, lie on your back and apply pressure to the site for at least 5 minutes until it stops bleeding.

**If the bleeding does not stop, go to the nearest emergency room.**

2. Shortness of breath, gasping for air, wheezing, or coughing that makes it difficult for you to breathe.

3. Watch for signs of infection. This may include:

- Fever 38°C (100.4°F) or higher
- Redness at the site
- Swelling at the site
- Discharge from the site



Call the contact information you were given if you have any of these symptoms or go to your nearest emergency centre.

