

Caring for your PICC Line

Information for Patients on Cancer Treatment

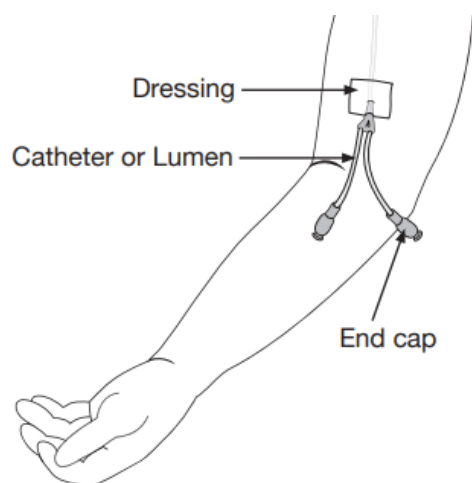
Your cancer treatment may be given through a **P**eripherally **I**nserted **C**entral **C**atheter line, or PICC line.

Your PICC line is a long line in your upper arm that goes into your bloodstream. It will not affect most of your daily activities, but you need to be careful to prevent infections.

- Do not carry heavy objects in the arm of the PICC line
- Do not bathe or swim with a PICC line
- Do not get the PICC line dressing wet
- Do not pull on your PICC line
- Do not wrap the PICC line tightly with anything

How often will a nurse care for my PICC line?

Your dressing will be changed 24 hours after it is put in by the Clinic Nurse or community care nurse. Afterwards, once a week, the dressing and cap will be changed, and the line will be flushed.



The dressing will be changed weekly by community clinic or home care nurses under the Ontario Health atHome service.

Your PICC line can stay in your arm for weeks to months if cared for properly.

How do I shower with a PICC line?

- 1) Cover the whole dressing with clear plastic wrap, starting above your dressing but below your shoulder.
- 2) Tape both ends of the wrap with waterproof tape.
- 3) After you shower, pat the plastic wrap dry with a clean towel and remove the wrap.

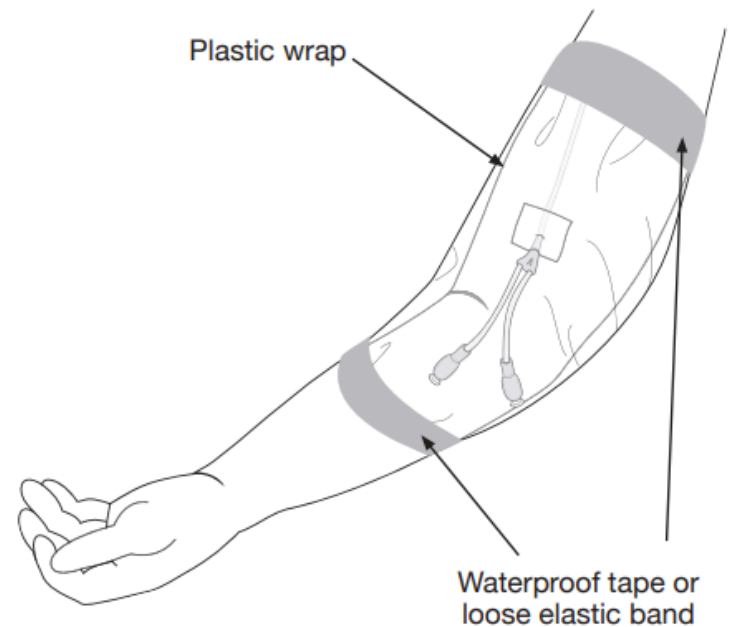


Illustration provided by Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, 2025.

Call the Clinic Nurse at (416) 469-6580 ext. 2752 if:

- You have new pain in the arm that has the PICC line
- Your PICC line moved out of place; do not push it back in
- The PICC dressing is wet, dirty, or peeling off

Go to your nearest **Emergency Department** if:

- You have a fever
- You have chills, chest pain, or difficulty breathing