

Living with your valved PICC

problems and what to do

- ✓ Always wash your hands before you do anything with your PICC, IV tubing or dressing.
- ✓ Gloves are worn if you have a cut, a rash or an infection on your hands.
- ✓ When cleaning with an alcohol wipe or antiseptic swab – rub well with friction for 15 seconds. Allow to dry.
- ✓ As you become more independent with your PICC care, here are some suggestions to help you if you run into problems.
- ✓ If you are not sure what to do or have a concern about your PICC, call your visiting nurse.

Nurse's name and phone number: _____

What you will see	What is the problem?	What to do
Wet around the cap.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure to moisture, such as a shower. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry off with an alcohol wipe/ antiseptic swab.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cap is loose. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean the connection between cap and PICC. 2. Put on a new cap. 3. Call your visiting nurse.
Cap falls off.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cap is not tight, or • Cap has cracked. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If your PICC has clamps, make sure they are all closed. 2. Clean the end of the PICC. 3. Put on a new cap. 4. Call your visiting nurse.

What you will see	What is the problem?	What to do
<p>Sluggish to flush.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PICC may be kinked or twisted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Straighten any kinks or twists. You may have to check under the dressing.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build up of blood or medication inside the PICC. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Flush well in between medications and when capping off. You may need to flush with more solution or more often. Call your visiting nurse.
<p>When you are flushing, you cannot push the solution in. Do not force the flush you may rupture the PICC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a kink or a twist in the PICC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Straighten any kinks or twists. You may need to check under the dressing.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tip of the PICC is resting against the vein. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Try changing your position, sit up, lie down, move your head. Take a deep breath and lift your arms and then try again.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your PICC may be blocked or out of position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call your visiting nurse. You may need to come to the hospital to unblock.

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<p>The IV is not running well.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The clamps on the IV tubing may be closed or there is a pump problem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the entire system.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tip of the PICC is against the wall of the vein. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try changing your position; sit up, lie down or move your head. • Take a deep breath and lift your arms and then try again.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PICC may be kinked, twisted or blocked. You may have to check under the dressing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check and straighten any kinks or twists. • Call your visiting nurse.
<p>Leaking at the site or under the dressing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PICC may have a crack in it. • The PICC may be broken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cap off PICC if infusing. • If there is bleeding tie the end off, or bend the catheter back on itself and tape. You may need to carefully pull 2.5 to 5 cm (1 to 2 in) of the catheter out from the site. • Cover with a clean dressing or cloth. • Immediately call and go to the hospital where your PICC was inserted or emergency.

What you will see	What is the problem?	What to do
<p>At the site where the PICC leaves your skin or along the path of the PICC you notice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • redness • swelling • drainage • tenderness • soreness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PICC problem. • Infection. • Irritation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call your visiting nurse.
<p>Fever, chills, sweating</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be an infection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately call and go to the hospital where your PICC was inserted or emergency.
<p>Swelling of the arm, neck or face, on the side that the PICC is located.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PICC may be causing a problem with your venous system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately call and go to the hospital where your PICC was inserted or emergency.

Do not use force to flush the PICC.

