

Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC)

What You Need to Know and Do

A peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) is a thin flexible tube (catheter) that is inserted in the vena cava (large vein near your heart). It is used to give medicine or nutrition. It can be kept in place for weeks or months.

A PICC is used instead of a standard IV (intravenous) line.

What should I do before my appointment?

No preparation is needed.

When should I arrive for my appointment?

You will need to arrive at least 30 minutes before your appointment time to check in and complete paperwork.

What happens during my procedure?

You will lie on a table. You will be covered with a large sterile sheet.

The area where the PICC will be placed is cleaned with an antiseptic solution. It is also numbed with local anesthetic.

The flexible tube (catheter) is put into a vein in your arm or neck. It is guided through the vein, using ultrasound images, until the tip of the catheter is in the vena cava (large vein near your heart).

The other end of the catheter is attached to your skin with adhesive dressing and/or a securement device.

What happens after my PICC placement?

You may feel soreness where the PICC was placed.

You can usually return to your normal activities and normal diet right away.

Follow-up with your primary care provider as needed.