

Oncology Unit

Understanding your PICC Line for Patients on Active Cancer Treatment (peripherally inserted central catheter)

After your PICC has been inserted

After the line has been inserted sometimes the arm above the PICC can be a little bit tender. You can apply heat to the area and this may help. Any tenderness should disappear within a few days. If there is bleeding from the exit site (where the lines comes out of your arm) gently apply pressure to the area, this should help it stop.

If it does not stop you can call the 24hour helpline on 01422 222999 for advice.

You can take normal painkillers if needed.

Caring for the PICC line

Once the line has been placed the hospital staff will look after your line for you.

You will have an appointment made for 24hours after the line has been placed for you to go to your local unit for the dressing changing.

Your dressings will be changed once a week in the chemotherapy unit and these appointments will be scheduled in for you with your chemotherapy treatment so you will not be expected to care for your line yourself.

The staff will also flush the line with sterile normal saline to prevent the line from blocking.

Bathing and showering

You will have a semi waterproof dressing covering the line, it is advisable not to get this wet so please do not submerge your dressing in any bathwater and if you are having a shower it is advisable to use cling film to wrap around the line and the dressing whilst showering, remove after showering.

Alternatively a plastic sleeve can be used to cover the line.

Please ask the nurses about the sleeves they can give you the paperwork to go to your GP to obtain a prescription to order a sleeve. (these are free of charge).

If you do get your dressing very wet and you are not due at the chemotherapy unit that day then you must contact the 24hour helpline on 01422 222999 so they can arrange for the dressing to be changed that day.

Should I avoid doing anything?

You will still be able to carry out your day to day activities.

We advise that you do not go swimming with the line in place due to the risk of infection.

If you have a hobby and you are unsure if you can still do this with a PICC line in place please ask your doctor or nurse and they can advise and discuss this with you.

What should I do if I have a problem with the PICC line?

Problems:

- Your PICC line is broken or bleeding or your dressing is coming away.
- You feel unwell, you have a temperature of 37.5 or above or less than 36 or you have shivering or shaking.
- The area around the point where the line goes into your arm becomes red and or swollen, smelly discharge or a reaction to your dressing.

If you experience any of the above YOU MUST contact the 24 hour helpline immediately on 01422 222999.

How will my PICC line be removed?

When you no longer need your line it will be removed by one of the chemotherapy nurses.

It is not painful and you will have a small dressing applied once removed.

Your line should only ever be used by staff that are competent to do so, if any member of staff needs to use your line you can ask them if they are trained to do so.

It is your line.

Please **DO NOT** let anyone touch your line without sterile gloves on; please challenge any member of staff if they attempt to do so.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the chemotherapy team.

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Chemotherapy Lead Nurse
Calderdale Royal Hospital
Telephone No: 01422 222705

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

ਬ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਚੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ,
ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ یا زبان میں درکار ہوں، تو
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

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المذكور أعلاه"