**PICC:** *(Peripheral Inserted Central Catheter)*

**What is a PICC?**
A PICC (peripherally inserted central catheter) is a long flexible tube (catheter) that is inserted into a large vein in your arm and then carefully moved into a large vein above your heart.

**Why do I need it?**
A PICC can be used to draw blood or to give medicines, fluids, nutrition, or blood products.

A PICC can be left in place much longer than an IV (intravenous) catheter. For this reason it is usually used with treatments that will last longer than a week.

You may have a PICC only while you’re in the hospital, or you may go home with it still in place.

**How is it inserted?**
The PICC is inserted by a healthcare provider specially trained to do this procedure.

**When and how will my PICC be removed?**
Your PICC will be removed when you no longer need the treatment it is delivering. It will be removed by your healthcare provider, and is usually a painless procedure.

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<tr>
<th>Potential benefits</th>
<th>Risks and potential complications</th>
<th>Alternatives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Fewer infections and complications are reported than with other types of central catheters.</td>
<td>As with any invasive procedure, there are uncommon but potential risks. Some of these include: • Infection • Inability to position the catheter tip in the right place, making it necessary to repeat the procedure • Blood clot</td>
<td>Other available options to access your veins may include: • Peripheral IV in the arm or hand • Other options as discussed with your doctor</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The catheter can remain in place throughout your therapy.</td>
<td>• Bleeding • Vein irritation • Irregular heart rhythm • Damage to the catheter</td>
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<td>• Treatments can be given over a long period of time.</td>
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