

PICC Insertion

A PICC line is a Central catheter placed in the upper arm and used for long-term therapy with medications that would irritate peripheral veins over an extended time.

1. **Labs:** If the patient is on anticoagulant therapy, a PT/INR and PTT will be needed prior to the procedure. If lab results are as current as the day of the procedure, orders will not be needed for a recheck.
2. **Diet:** If there is an indication for sedation during the procedure, the patient will need to be NPO 4hrs prior to the procedure. Otherwise, there are no restrictions.
3. **Medications:** Usually, routine meds are not withheld. If the patient is on anticoagulant therapy, orders will be needed for withholding these meds.
4. Some radiologists place PICC's by using ultrasound. Some conditions require the use of a contrast media (dye) to visualize the vein. The Imaging nurses will let you know if a peripheral I.V. is needed.
5. In this situation, and if possible, the patient will need to have a peripheral I.V. in the same arm where the PICC will be placed, prior to the patient being transported to Radiology.
6. The catheter is usually placed in the non-dominant arm. The patients will be taught how to care for the catheter (usually by a home health nurse), and being able to use the dominant hand will make it more convenient for the patient.
7. If the patient is unable to give informed consent, please have the appropriate designee available to give consent, either by phone or in person.
8. The patient's chart will return with a PICC instruction booklet and an information card (the size of a credit card). The patient is to go home with both of these. Instruct the patient or caregiver to keep the information card in his/her wallet, pocket, purse, etc., at all times.

An Imaging nurse can be reached at x5280, M-F, 7am-7pm. After hours, the on-call nurse can be paged by calling the Imaging front office at x4455.