

## Neonatal Critical Care Service – Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC line)

### Introduction

The Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on the NHS ability to provide routine elective services. We recognise that patients are waiting longer than we would all like and it is not always possible to identify when treatment will take place. This document provides you with information on how you are able to support yourself while waiting to attend the hospital. The guidance has been written by clinicians who are responsible for your care.

Please read the following information in conjunction with the staying healthy guidance appropriate for your condition

### Guidance for Patients

A PICC line is a **Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter** which is a type of central line used for the administration of intravenous medications and for taking blood samples.

Midlines are also peripherally inserted catheters, which are inserted into your upper arm above your elbow and travel up into the large veins of your upper arm.

A PICC line is inserted into your arm and travels along the vein up into your chest and down into one of the large veins close to your heart. The other end will be accessible from your arm at a site above your elbow.

Not all patients are suitable for a PICC line or midline. A specialist practitioner will assess you to see whether a PICC line or midline will be suitable for you and your treatment.

A PICC line or midline is useful for patients who have small veins and/or require long term intravenous therapy, for example, over a week. PICC lines and midlines can deliver medications directly to the blood stream and reduce irritation to the veins, which can sometimes be caused by medications. It is also possible to take blood samples from the line.

A PICC line or midline can be used for:

- ☑ Taking blood samples
- ☑ Administration of intravenous fluids
- ☑ Giving intravenous drugs such as antibiotics, chemotherapy
- ☑ Giving blood products
- ☑ Intravenous feeding

A PICC line or midline has the following advantages

- ☑ They reduce the need for needle punctures for blood tests

## My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

☒ They can be used for long term intravenous access

☒ They can be used for a wide range of treatments

If you have been referred for a PICC line or midline, a Vascular Access Specialist practitioner will discuss the procedure with you and assess your ability to have a line inserted. Once the practitioner has made the assessment and you have consented to the procedure you will attend a treatment room within our Day Surgery Department to have the line inserted. The procedure is short and is carried out using local anaesthetic.

There is no preparation required for the procedure and you are able to eat and drink as normal.

☒ Your arm will be scanned using an ultrasound machine to identify the location and size of your veins. This is painless and not invasive. You will also have a tourniquet placed tightly around the top of your arm to assist in finding the veins.

☒ You will be asked to lie down flat on your back with the chosen arm placed outwards at a 90 degree angle from your body.

☒ The Vascular Access Specialist practitioner will clean the skin on your arm with Chlorhexidine and alcohol and insert the line using local anaesthetic to the insertion site of the arm.

☒ You will be asked to turn your head towards the practitioner to help the line move up the vein. If this is difficult for you please let the Specialist practitioner know.

☒ You should not feel any pain during the procedure, but may feel some pressure around the site as the Specialist practitioner inserts the line.

☒ After the line has been inserted, a securing device will be placed on your arm to hold the line in place along with a dressing to reduce any bleeding.

☒ An ECG machine is used to identify the line is in the correct place. A chest X-ray may also be taken to confirm the position of the line tip before it can be used.

The leaflets can be accessed below:

### What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

This procedure usually be carried out whilst your child is an inpatient on the Neonatal unit. If you have any concerns please contact the nurse in charge or the Consultant of the week, who will be happy to discuss the procedure with you.

Alternatively you can contact the Vascular access team on the telephone number below.

### Contact Us

Vascular Access Team – 02476 965900