



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. If the patient is unable to give informed consent, please have the appropriate designee available to give consent, either by phone or in person.**
- 5. Radiologists place PICC's by using ultrasound. Some conditions require the use of a contrast media (X-Ray dye) to visualize the vein.**
- 6. The catheter is usually placed in the non-dominate 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. 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 contacting the Imaging Front Office at 678-312-4455 or Extension 24455.