

## Useful Telephone Numbers

Community Children's Nursing Team ☎ 01438 288370

Bluebell ward, Lister Hospital ☎ 01438 284008

## We're here to help

We have Community Children's Nurses covering East and North Hertfordshire. The team work closely with primary care and other agencies to help achieve the highest quality of care for families. We are available for support and advice Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

The service offers care and support for children who need nursing care within their home and other community settings. These include children with:

- Chronic, special needs and palliative care needs
- Cancer
- Blood disorders
- Enteral feeding
- Respiratory and cardiac conditions
- Rheumatology conditions, such as arthritis
- Acute conditions that require follow-up, such as infections which need long-term treatment

## We aim to:

- Provide high quality, specialist nursing care
- Shorten hospital stay and prevent readmission
- Help the child and family to meet their own care needs

# Parent Information

## Child or Young Person with a PICC Line

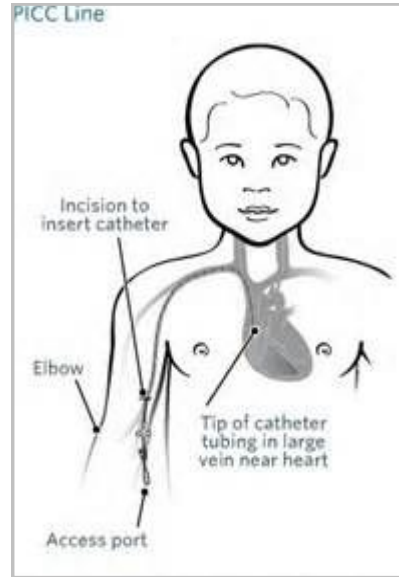
### Community Children's Nursing Team



## What is a PICC line?

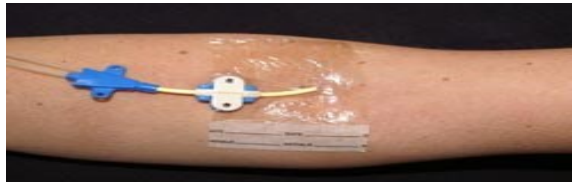
A PICC line is a peripherally inserted central catheter; a long thin flexible tube. It is usually put into one of the large veins of the arm, near the bend of the elbow. It's then threaded into the vein until the tip sits in a large vein just above the heart.

The line is sealed with a special cap or bung. This allows the line to be attached to a drip or syringe containing medication or accessed should any blood tests need to be taken. Some PICC lines have a clamp on the outside which stays closed when it is not being used.



## Dressings

Where the PICC line comes out of the body, there will be a clear dressing covering it to keep it secure and help prevent it from becoming infected. The tube is not attached to the body so can easily be pulled out by accident. The dressing must remain in place to keep the area dry and reduce the risk of infection.



The community children's nurses will visit children and young people with PICC lines on a weekly basis to flush the line and change the dressings.

## Very important things to remember

- The area must be kept dry to reduce the risk of infection. **If the bandage gets wet, change it immediately.**

### Children with a PICC line must **NOT** do the following:

- Swimming or water sports.
- Contact sports, such as rugby/football as the line may get accidentally pulled.
- Never let anyone touch or play with the line.
- Never use scissors near the line.

## Troubleshooting - What to do if the PICC line breaks

**Every child with a PICC line should always have an emergency kit with them.**

- 1) Stay calm and reassure the child/young person.
- 2) Wash your hands.
- 3) If able, use the blue clamp from the safety pack to clamp the PICC line between the break and the child. Clamp the line using the section of the blue clamp at the bottom of the 'V'.
- 4) Clean the broken area with the chlorhexidine swab.
- 5) Place the gauze under the broken area and tape the PICC line to the gauze.
- 6) Wrap the gauze around the line and tape securely to the skin.
- 7) If the parent or guardian are not present, ensure they have been contacted.

## Troubleshooting - What to do if the bung/cap falls off the line

- 1) Wash your hands.
- 2) Thoroughly wipe the end of the PICC line with the chlorhexidine swab.
- 3) Take a new bung/cap from the kit and screw it onto the end of the PICC line.
- 4) Wrap and tape gauze around the end of the PICC line.
- 5) Contact the Community Children's Nursing Team or your local children's ward for advice (contact details on the back page).