

In addition to PICC line placement , our hospital and clinic offers the following services:

- ***Outpatient chemotherapy***
- ***Blood transfusions***
- ***Antibiotic therapy (both long and short term)***
- ***IV fluids for hydration***
- ***Lab draws***
- ***Central-line care***
- ***Injection***

About our hospital and clinic offer state of the art diagnostic and recovery services. Our physicians and staff are dedicated to providing the best, most comprehensive medical and nursing services to our community. They deliver quality healthcare, one patient at a time.



**Kit Carson County
Health Service
District**

**286 16th Street
Burlington, Colorado 80807
(719) 346-5311**



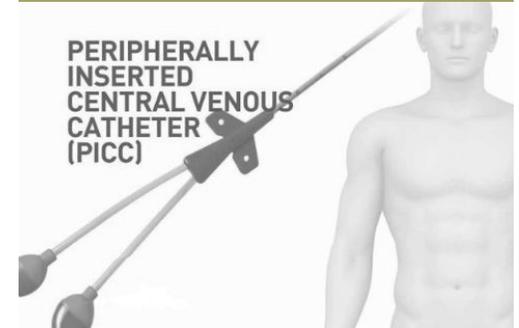
PICC Lines

Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter

A service of Kit Carson Health Service District and Kit Carson Memorial Hospital



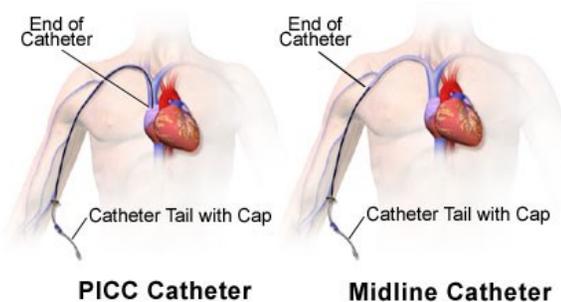
**PERIPHERALLY
INSERTED
CENTRAL VENOUS
CATHETER
(PICC)**



**Kit Carson
County Health
Service District**

What is a PICC?

It is a long plastic tube (catheter) which is put into one of the large veins in your arm over the elbow joint. The tube then passes through the large veins of the arm and shoulder and the tip of the tube is positioned in the big vein above the heart, this vein is called the superior vena cava. The PICC line is put in by a PICC clinician.



Is a PICC right for me?

The risk and benefits of vascular access must be matched to the medical needs and condition of the individual patient. For some patients, PICC lines are simply the safest method to deliver infusion therapy. For others a PICC avoids the risk of an invasive surgical procedure required to place a long term central catheter. Many patients appreciate the benefit of PICC in home infusion and quick return to normal activities. PICC avoid the pain and injury involved in repeated punctures with short peripheral catheters. Cost is also a consideration.

Most PICC lines can be safely placed at the bedside by a specially trained vascular access specialist avoiding the cost of surgery.

Why am I being offered a PICC?

The PICC can be used to give you treatments such as chemotherapy and antibiotics. It can also be used to take samples of your blood for testing. You can go home with the PICC and it can be left in for weeks or months. This makes it possible for you to have your treatment without having to have needles frequently inserted into your veins. This may be particularly helpful if your veins are hard to find or have been hardened by previous treatments.

How is the PICC put in?

Inserting a PICC is a minor procedure. A local anesthetic is used so you should not feel pain. The vascular Access Specialist putting in the PICC will wear a sterile gown and be assisted by an assistant. They will select a suitable vein and put a needle into that vein. The PICC will then be threaded through the needle into the vein and then up into the correct position. The needle then can be removed leaving the PICC in the correct position. This positioning is done under image guidance; ultrasound and X-ray.

To minimize bleeding after the insertion of a PICC restrict arm movement for the first two hours. A pressure bandage will be applied for the first 24 hours.

Who will look after my PICC?

The PICC is held in place with an adhesive waterproof dressing. The dressing will need changing weekly, or more often if it becomes loose or soiled. If the PICC is not being used for continuous infusion then it will need flushing with a solution by a nurse to ensure the line does not block (heparin).

Can I have a bath or shower?

Yes, as a general rule, we encourage people with PICC to shower. This is preferable to submerging your PICC in bath water because of the risk of infection. Water proof coverings are available to protect whilst showering. If you would like to know more about this, please speak to a member of our PICC staff. Swimming should be avoided whilst your PICC is in place.

What are the Benefits of having a PICC inserted?

A PICC will prevent you from receiving several needles throughout the course of your treatment. This will prevent long-term damage to your veins that may be caused by receiving several injections over a long period of time.

Insertion of a PICC allows the treatment the doctor has recommended for you to be given safely.

Removal of your PICC?

When you no longer need your PICC, it will be removed by a member of the nursing staff. Removal of your PICC will take approximately 5 minutes and will be pain free.

Ask your doctor if a PICC is right for you?

Kit Carson Health Service District

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