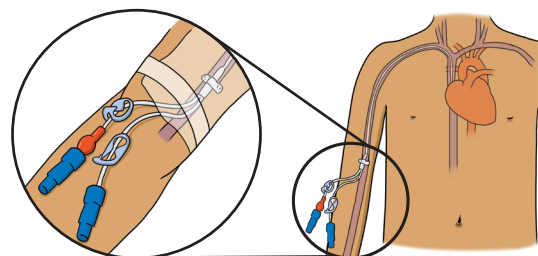




## Keeping our mob healthy

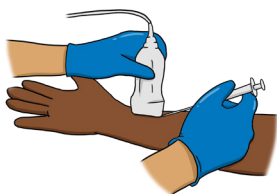
# Peripherally Inserted Central (pur-if-er-al-ee) Catheter (PICC)



A PICC is a long, narrow tube that is put into a large vein. PICC lines are used:

- So bub needs less needles.
- To take blood.
- To give medicines and fluids.
- A PICC line can stay in for a long time (weeks or months) and be taken out when no longer needed.
- To stop smaller veins getting damaged from injections over weeks or months.

### How it's put in



Bub will need to lie very still; an anaesthetic (sleeping medicine) will be given to young bubs to help them lie still.

An ultrasound (special camera) helps guide the needle through the vein in the arm.

When the PICC is in place, a chest x-ray (picture) will be taken to check it's in the right spot.

### Risks

The doctor will yarn with you about a PICC, if they feel this will be best for bub and about the risks of a PICC.

**Please make sure you ask any questions and yarn with the doctor.**

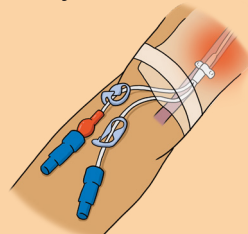
### Common risks

Very young bubs have a higher chance of risk.

General anaesthetic (sleep medication) itself can be a risk.

Pain or infection at the site.

**What can be done?**  
Antibiotic medication may be needed.

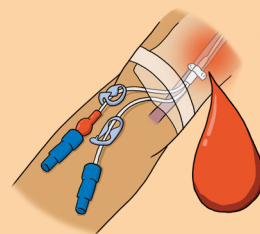


It's important to let your doctor know if bub takes any other medications.



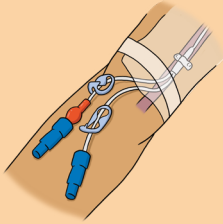
Bleeding or bruising at the site.

**What can be done?**  
Place an ice pack on the bruised area.



Kinks or a blocked PICC.

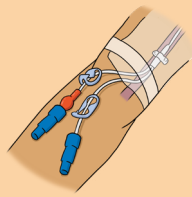
**What can be done?**  
May need to change the position.



Medicine can unblock the tube.

Blood clot blocking the vein.

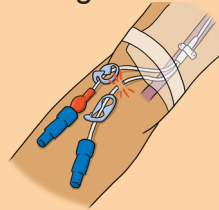
**What can be done?**  
Medicine is given to treat the blood clot.



If the blood clot is not treated another PICC in the future might be more difficult.

The PICC may accidentally be removed or broken if pulled on.

**What can be done?**  
May need to put in again.



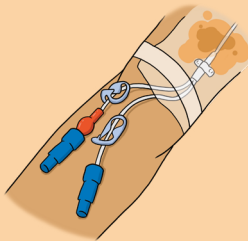
If local anaesthetic (numbing medicine) does not work.

**What can be done?**  
Bub may need a second injection.

## Less common risks

Infection.

**What can be done?**  
The PICC may need to be removed.



An irregular or fast heartbeat.

**What can be done?**  
The PICC may need to be removed.

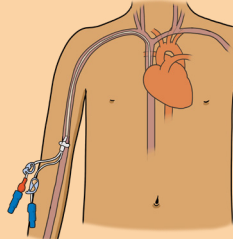


Damage to other blood vessels, organs and muscles.

**What can be done?**  
Doctor will treat.



An allergy to medication.  
**What can be done?**  
Tell the doctor so they can help bub.



The tip of the PICC may move.  
**What can be done?**  
PICC will be moved or taken out by the doctor.



Medication or infection causing pain in the arm or vein.  
**What can be done?**  
The PICC may need to be removed by the doctor.

Difficulty putting in the PICC or unable to do it because of medical or technical reasons.

**What can be done?**

If the doctor **cannot put in the PICC**, they will put in a **central** line instead. This is where the long narrow tube is usually placed in the neck or near the groin at the top of the leg.

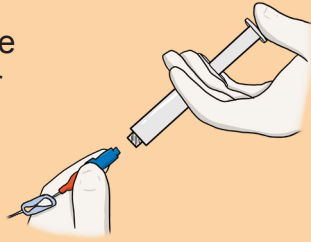
If bub has a **central** line, they will need to stay in the hospital until the treatment is done.

## Rare risks:

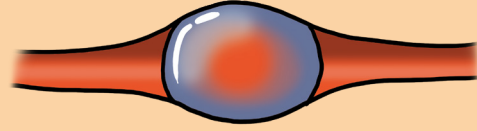
Injected medicines may leak outside of the vein, under the skin or into the fat tissues.

### What can be done?

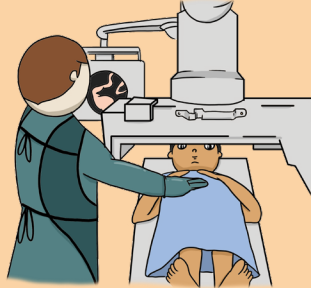
The doctor will treat bub.



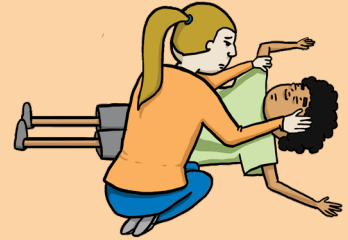
Air bubble enters the blood stream causing a heart attack or a stroke –this is very rare.



Increased exposure to x-rays.



Seizures and/or cardiac arrest from too much local anaesthetic (numbing medicine)—this is very rare.



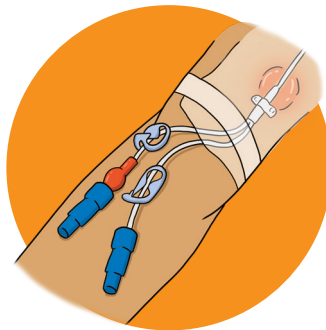
## When at home

- Try not to pull on the PICC.
- Tell the doctor right away if the PICC breaks or falls out.

See your GP, health clinic or go to the emergency department if bub has:



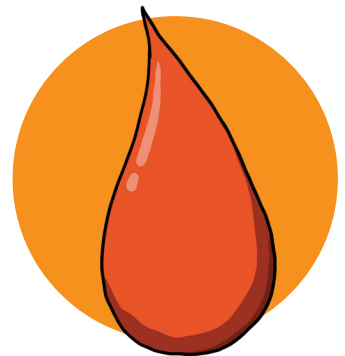
A fever



Swelling (puffy) where the PICC is



Pain, and pain killers don't work



Ongoing bleeding or swelling and redness around the PICC



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Produced by: Anaesthetics / Social Work  
Ref: 761.1 © CAHS 2021

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