

WORDS TO KNOW

Intravenous (IV): Inside the vein.

PICC: Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter – A thin tube made of soft, flexible rubber-like material put into a major (central) vein to inject medicine or fluids, or to take out blood.

Stat-lock: A device outside your child's body that secures the end of the catheter to the skin on their upper arm under the clear dressing.

Open-ended catheters: This type of PICC does not have a valve. To close the catheter, you clamp it. To keep blood clots from forming the catheter tubing, you put in a medicine called heparin.

Closed-ended catheters: This type of PICC has a valve that lets fluids go in or out but stays closed when it is not being used. Pressure makes the valve work. The valve stays closed when there is no pressure against it. You do not need heparin to keep a closed-ended catheter from clotting.

Lumen: The opening at the end of the catheter. PICCs can have several different lumens.

Needleless connector: The cap on the end of the catheter outside your child's body. This helps protect the line from air in the tubing and is where the syringes and tubing connect to your child's PICC.

Bulldog clamp: The metal clamp to be used for central line emergencies.



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Heparin: A medicine that prevents blood from clotting. This medicine is part of a group called “anticoagulants.”

Flow restrictor: Part of an elastomeric pump that controls how fast the medicine moves from the balloon to your child.

Exit site: The place where the catheter comes out of the body.

Aseptic technique: A method of keeping everything as clean as possible to keep all your supplies and medications germ-free, preventing germs from getting in your child’s body.

Sterile: There is nothing living on the object. It means there are absolutely no germs at all. Your skin cannot be sterilized and still be alive itself. It can only be disinfected, so most of the germs on it are killed.

Chlorhexidine: A liquid that kills germs.

Dressing: A covering placed over the site where the catheter comes out of your child’s body.

ClampTie: A product used to secure your child’s tubing to their clothing to prevent pulling on the tubing.

Skin breakdown: Irritated skin that is red, sore or broken. When the skin breaks down, germs can get through and cause an infection.

