



Information for You from Your Health Care Team

PICC Lines

A Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (kath-uh-ter) (PICC) is used when a patient needs IV medicines and fluids. The PICC catheter is a small, flexible plastic tube that is put through a vein in the arm. A vein is a tube inside the body that carries blood from the body to the heart.

PICC lines may be used because smaller veins either cannot be used or small veins might be damaged. PICC lines are often used for long-term treatments, up to a year. They are also used for patient's who will be receiving medicines at home after they are discharged. The following are additional reasons why a patient may need a PICC catheter:

- Receiving antibiotic medicines to prevent infection (in-feck-shun)
- Frequent blood sampling
- IV medicines that would cause pain or damage to smaller veins
- Receiving IV fluids for a long period of time
- Receiving pain medicines
- Total Parenteral Nutrition (pear-en-tare-ul). TPN is a special liquid food that goes directly into the veins