

Medical Oncology

PICC Removal Information Sheet (Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter)

How to take care of your PICC site:

1. Keep dressing on for 24 hours.
2. Keep the PICC site dry for 24 hours.
3. Replace dressing if it becomes wet or dirty.
4. After 24 hours, you may remove the dressing and shower or bathe as usual.
5. If there is any bleeding, apply gentle pressure for 2 minutes or until bleeding stops. If it continues, call your doctor.
6. To help your PICC site heal, avoid heavy lifting or strenuous activities for 24 hours.

When to be concerned:

- **If you have trouble breathing or sudden chest pain – Call 911 or go directly to the hospital.**
- **Call your doctor or nurse if you have the following:**

Signs of infection

- If your temperature is above 100.4° F.
- If you see drainage where the catheter was pulled out.
- If your arm is warm to the touch and you have pain or discomfort.

Signs of bleeding

- A dressing has been applied to the catheter removal site. You may or may not notice some bleeding. If you do notice bleeding, apply pressure with your fingers for 2 minutes. If it does not stop, call the nurse or doctor.

Signs of vein irritation

- The vein can become irritated after removing the catheter.
- If you see redness and a red streak up your arm at the removal site call the nurse or doctor.

Signs of a clot

- While not common, it can be serious and requires action right away. If there is arm swelling, numbness or discoloration call your nurse or doctor right away.

If you have questions or concerns, please call your care team at:

Bronson Cancer Center – Battle Creek	269-245-8660
Bronson Cancer Center – Kalamazoo	269-286-7170