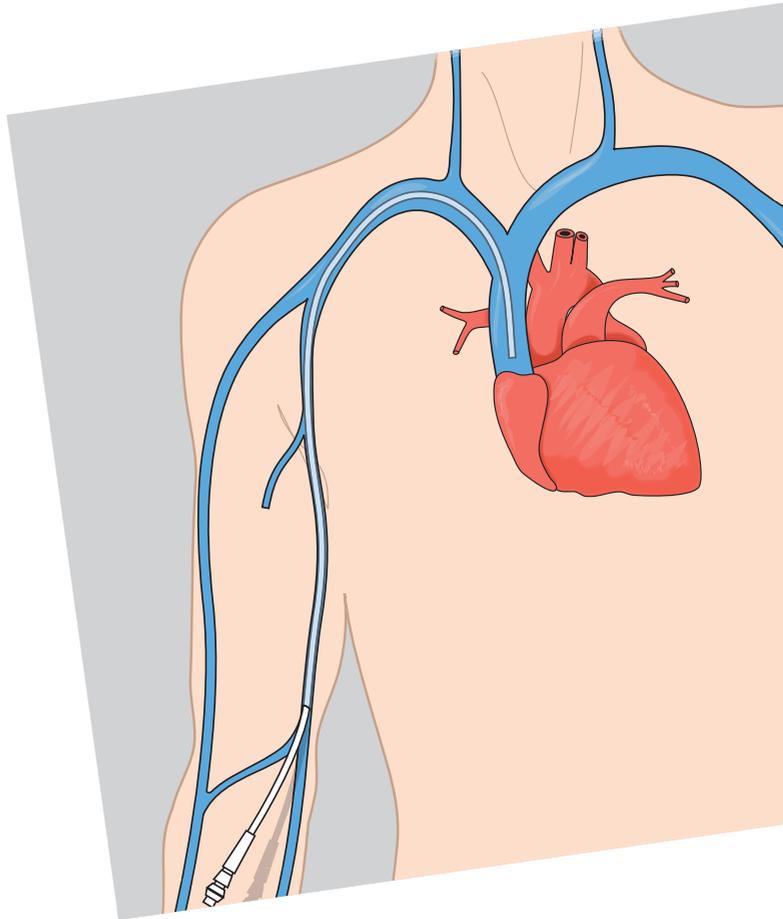


Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter

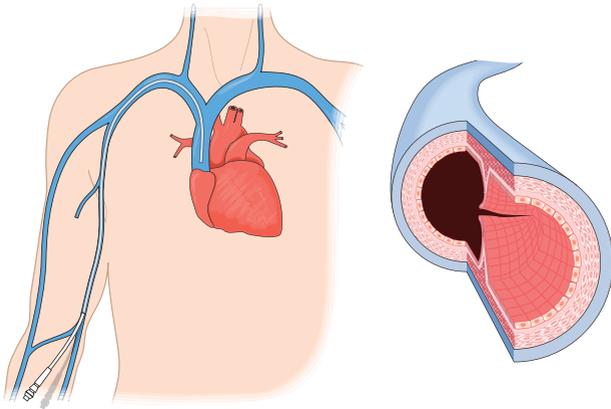
Home Care Advice



The JurongHealth-National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS) Cancer Service offers specialised treatments to cancer patients using a combination of surgery and/or chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy.

What is PICC?

PICC, also known as Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter is a thin and flexible tube that is inserted into a vein in your arm. The PICC line goes past the shoulder to the large veins of the chest near your heart.



What is the purpose of PICC?

PICC can be used to give certain IV fluids, antibiotics and other medicines. It can also be used for blood transfusion when you need it, or to obtain blood samples without using a needle prick.

PICC is suitable for patients with small veins.

How is PICC inserted?

You will be in a lying position during the procedure and a local anaesthesia will be given to numb the insertion area. A fluoroscopy is used to locate your vein and position of the catheter tip. A radiologist will insert the PICC, taking approximately 40 minutes to an hour to complete. The PICC will be anchored onto your skin with two sutures and a waterproof transparent dressing.

Possible Complications

- Bleeding.
- The catheter may be displaced (moved out of position) when there is excessive and vigorous movement.
- Bruises may occur near the insertion site.
- Infection may develop at the site of insertion or in your blood. The signs of infection may include:
 - Discharges over the exit site of catheter
 - Fever
 - Skin swelling, redness or pain at catheter site
 - Tenderness over catheter area

Do's

- Ensure that the catheter is clamped and the connector is in place when they are not in use.
- Inform the nurse if you are allergic to any cleansing solution or dressing.
- Wash your hands before touching the site.
- Cover the PICC connector and dressing with cling wrap when you shower.
- Ensure your stitches are intact.
- Keep your dressing dry, intact and clean at all times.
- Observe for any signs of infection such as redness, swelling, pain or discharges.



Don'ts

- Avoid activities that would cause catheter to be dislodged.
- Avoid vigorous exercises such as swimming and weight-lifting.
- Do not attempt to clean the PICC with other solutions (such as soap or cleanser) when you bathe.
- Do not soak/submerge your dressing in water.



Contact your nurse/doctor immediately if there is:

- Excessive bleeding
- High fever (temperature more than 38°C)
- Signs of infection
- PICC line was accidentally pulled out or dislodged

Important

A dressing appointment will be arranged 24 hours after a PICC insertion to reduce the risk of infection.

Ensure your PICC dressing is changed and the flushing of PICC is done once a week or at your nurse's advice.

If your PICC comes out accidentally, press the site hard with gauze for about 10 minutes to stop the bleeding. Apply a plaster or gauze after the bleeding has stopped.

If the bleeding does not stop, continue to apply pressure to the site and go to the nearest Emergency Department immediately.

You may also call our Oncology Resource Line at 6716 1702 from 8.30am to 5pm (Monday to Friday) for further information.

For more information

Ng Teng Fong General Hospital and Jurong Community Hospital

1 Jurong East St 21, Singapore 609606

General enquiries: 6716 2000 Fax: 6716 5500

www.ntfgh.com.sg

Clinical and appointment line hours (closed on Sundays and public holidays)

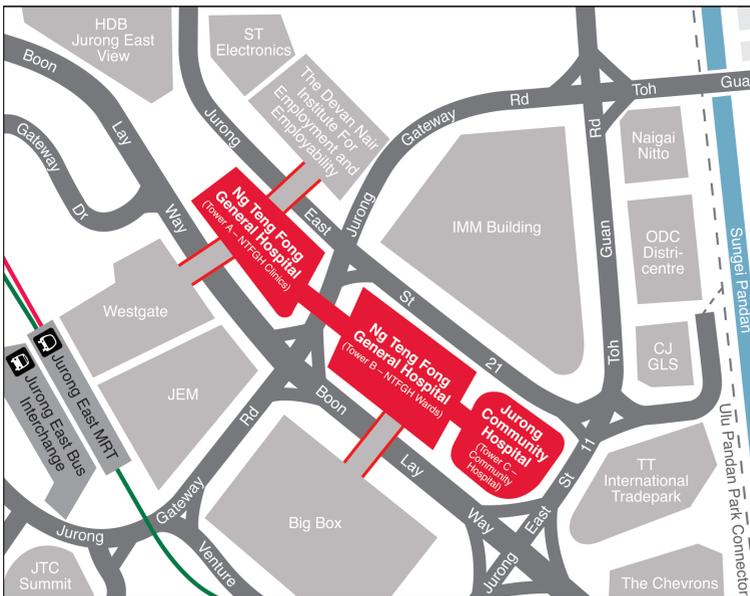
For appointments, please call 6716 2222

Monday - Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm, Saturday 8.00am - 12.30pm

For dental appointments, please call 6716 2233

Monday - Thursday 8.00am - 5.30pm, Friday 8.00am - 5.00pm

Getting there



By train

Jurong East MRT Station

By bus

From Jurong East Bus Interchange

SBS 49, 51, 52, 66, 78, 79, 97, 97e, 98, 98M, 105,

143, 143M, 160, 183, 197, 333, 334, 335, 506

Along Boon Lay Way

SBS 99, Private bus service 625

Disclaimer:

The information in this brochure is meant for educational purposes and should not be used as a substitute for medical diagnosis or treatment. Please seek your doctor's advice before starting any treatment or if you have any questions related to your health, physical fitness or medical condition.