

# Care after removal of your Peripheral Intravenous Central Catheter (PICC)

Your doctor may ask for your PICC line to be removed when your treatment has finished or if there is a problem. Removing the PICC line is quick and, while uncomfortable, should not be painful.

There may be some bleeding and a gauze bandage will be applied to add pressure to the site. When the bleeding stops, a waterproof dressing will be applied and bandaged. Take the bandage off after two hours or if your arm becomes tingly or numb. The waterproof dressing must stay in place for three days.

After your PICC line is removed, you will be asked to wait for a short while so your nurse can observe you.

You will be discharged from the Community IV Service. This means you will be moving care to another medical team from the hospital or your GP. Please contact us by phone if you have any questions or concerns over the next 48 hours on 0407 574 683.

## Things to avoid

- Do not go swimming or submerge your arm in water for at least 48 hours. You can shower without applying a waterproof cover to your arm

- Do not lift anything weighing more than 2kg for 48 hours
- Avoid bumping or laying on your affected arm for 48 hours
- Avoid strenuous exercise for 48 hours.

## Who to contact?

Contact the Community IV Service during business hours or afterhours and leave a message. You may also contact your GP if :

- your site bleeds slightly
- you suddenly feel unwell
- you have a fever
- you have pain or numbness in your arm
- you have redness or swelling at PICC site
- there is pus or a unpleasant odour
- you have questions or concerns.

## In an emergency

In an emergency such as excessive bleeding, sudden pain or swelling, difficulty breathing, contact 000 to attend the emergency department.

