

Drawing Lab Work from Your PICC Line

What are the advantages of my PICC line?

The PICC line will allow you to receive medications, IV solutions, and blood transfusions more effectively. Another function of your PICC line is the ability to draw your blood samples using it.

How is this done?

Lab will contact a registered nurse to obtain this blood sample from the PICC line.

Are there times when it cannot or should not be done?

If you receive certain medications or nutrition through your PICC line, it may cause your lab results to be inaccurate and/or stopping these medications or nutrition might not be best for your health.

Are there risks?

Drawing blood through your PICC line can increase the chance of clotting or plugging the line. This could result in the need to replace the PICC line.

The risk of blood infections is greater the more your line is opened and used. Blood infections are very serious and can be life-threatening. If you get a blood infection, you would need antibiotics and your hospital stay might be longer.

So what are my options?

If you have good veins on your other arm where lab personnel have always obtained blood samples, we would encourage you to continue to have the samples drawn from your arm.

You may decide to have the staff use your PICC line for blood sampling and your wishes will be honored, unless doing so would be dangerous to you.

Your nurse will discuss these options with you and help you make the best decision regarding the use of your PICC line for blood drawing.

A sign will be placed in your room which will indicate your wishes regarding blood draws. This sign either informs the Lab to contact a nurse who can perform the blood draw or indicates that lab personnel will draw the blood sample from your arm the usual way.

If you have any questions, please talk with your nurse.

#5227 we/PICC/bld draw 4/07