

After Your PICC Line is Removed

This handout offers the information you need after your PICC line is removed.

For 48 hours after your PICC line is removed:

- Keep the dressing on over the site where your PICC line was removed.
- Do not get the dressing wet.
- Change the dressing if it becomes wet or dirty.
- No heavy lifting, pulling or pushing with the arm your PICC line was in.

After 48 hours, you can:

- Take the dressing off.
- Return to your regular activities. This includes showering, having a bath or swimming.

If you have:

- Pain that doesn't go away at the site where your PICC line was removed.
- A fever above 38.3° C/100.9°F at any time or above 38.0° C/100.4°F for more than an hour.
- Redness or swelling of the skin around the site where your PICC line was removed.
- Any drainage from the site where your PICC line was removed. This drainage may be yellow, brown or green.
- Any bleeding from the site where your PICC line was removed that does not stop after you apply pressure for 2 minutes.

If you have a problem or concern about a symptom or side effect from your cancer treatment:

1. Call your primary nurse at the cancer centre from Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4 pm, (except on holidays). Use the phone number your primary nurse gave you.
2. Contact CareChart Digital Health from Monday to Friday, 5 pm to 8:30 am and anytime on weekends and holidays for symptom management support.

Talk to a nurse using one of these options:

- Call the after-hours telephone line at 1-877-681-3057.
- Request a video call by going to www.carechart.ca.
- Use the CareChart Digital Health App. This App is available to download for iOS or Android devices.

Call 911 or go to the emergency department at the hospital closest to you for a medical emergency. Talk to any member of your healthcare team if you have questions or do not understand any of the information in this handout.

This handout was created by the Patient Education Program at the Durham Regional Cancer Centre/Lakeridge Health. It was last reviewed in April of 2024.