

GUIDE TO PICC MAINTENANCE

TASK	HOW	FREQUENCY	WHY
Accessing Connector / Cap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrub the hub thoroughly with alcohol for 15-30 seconds Consider using disinfection caps 	Every time you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enter the connector to flush, administer medication, or connect any tubing 	Prevents outside bacteria from entering the line
Blood Draw	Aseptic Technique <ul style="list-style-type: none"> slowly using 10mL or larger syringe Flush with 10 mL NS before and 20mL NS after 	Per Licensed Practitioner orders or routine lab work	Reduces needle sticks
Assess Need	Evaluate the need for IV meds or fluids with the patient care team	Every shift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer catheter dwell times lead to higher risk of infection Remove catheter if not needed
Site Evaluation	Observe site for signs of infection: redness, edema, drainage, tenderness, etc.	Every shift and as needed	Consistent monitoring leads to faster treatment of complications
Flushing / Locking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrub the connector Know manufacturer directions for flushing /clamp/syringe removal sequence Use commercially prefilled 10mL size syringes Do not force or push against resistance Consider Push/Pause Technique 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before and after every medication Before and after every blood draw If not in use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-valved: every 24 hours Valved: once a week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevents incompatible fluids/ medications from combining Flush after each infusion to clear the catheter lumen
Needleless Access Device Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aseptic technique Scrub the hub with alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change with admin set or every 7 days After a lab draw 	Prevents outside bacteria from entering the line
Dressing Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aseptic technique Sterile dressing change kit Use clear dressings (TSM) without gauze underneath; consider antimicrobial disc Gauze and tape for patients with skin irritation Securement device Label date, time, initials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every 7 days or when dressing is loose, wet, or soiled Gauze dressings should be changed every 48 hours Securement device should be changed with dressing Antimicrobial disk with each dressing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps prevent infection Clear dressing allows for visualization of the site Securement device prevents catheter movement, dislodgement, and phlebitis Label communicates dressing age