

16 Peripherally Inserted Central Line

Patient name: _____ Admission: _____

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- I. **The client/caregiver can describe a peripherally inserted central line.**
 - A. A catheter is inserted into a vein at or above the antecubital space of the arm, and the tip extends into the distal superior vena cava.
 - B. Insertion requires verification of placement by x-ray.
 - C. A specially trained nurse or physician must do insertion and removal of PICC.

- II. **The client/caregiver can list precautions for use of PICC line.**
 - A. Do not take blood pressure on that arm.
 - B. Avoid any trauma to that arm.

- III. **The client/caregiver can demonstrate care of PICC.**
 - A. Use a sterile technique when changing dressing. The use of a mask for client and person changing dressing is often required.
 - B. Dressing should be changed 24 hours after insertion and at least weekly (check physician or agency policy for specific instructions).
 - C. As needed, change dressing if loose or soiled.
 - D. Keep the external part of the catheter coiled under the dressing.
 - E. Injection caps should be changed every three to seven days or per policy/physician order.

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- F. Catheter should be flushed with heparin solution per policy or as ordered by physician.

- IV. **The client/caregiver can list possible complications of PICC line and what to do.**
 - A. Malposition of PICC lines may occur, as evidenced by increased length of external portion of catheter or difficulty with infusion.
 - 1. Notify nurse.
 - B. Bleeding may occur 24 hours after insertion.
 - 1. Notify nurse.
 - C. Phlebitis may occur between insertion site and top.
 - 1. Apply warm compresses.
 - 2. Notify nurse.

REFERENCES

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