

# Caring for Yourself after PICC Removal

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## What should I know about PICC removal?

After your therapy is complete, your doctor may order the removal of your PICC line. PICC lines can be safely removed in your home by your nurse.

You'll feel some pressure but shouldn't feel any pain. There may be some bleeding, and your nurse will apply pressure to the site after removing the PICC.

### After removal:

- Your nurse will put a dressing (bandage) over the site. Keep the area covered, clean, and dry for 24 hours. Then change the dressing every 24 hours until the site is healed.

### Things to avoid:

- Don't shower or bathe for the first 24 hours.
- Don't take a bath, go into a hot tub, or swim until the scab falls off. You can take showers.
- For the first 24 hours, don't lift anything heavier than 10 pounds. Don't do strenuous exercise for 24 hours after PICC removal.

If there's any bleeding from the site, lie down on your back and apply direct pressure. Do this by pressing your hand over the dressing for 5 to 10 minutes. See the next section for what to do if the bleeding doesn't stop

## Go to the emergency room if:

- The bleeding doesn't stop after applying pressure for 10 minutes. Keep pressure on the site until you've arrived at the hospital.

## Call 911 if:

- You have shortness of breath, chest pain, or dizziness.

## Call your care team if you have any of these signs of infection:

- A fever
- Redness, tenderness, or drainage from the site
- Swelling in your arm