

Removing your Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC)

Appointment Information

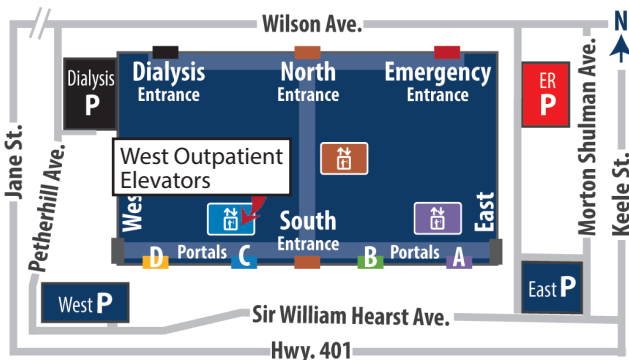


You have an appointment to remove your peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC). This handout explains how to prepare for your procedure and how to care for yourself after the removal.

We will remove your PICC in Medical Daycare. If you have any questions about the removal, please call the clinic at (416) 242-1000 ext. 21300.

Location:

Humber River Health,
Medical Daycare, 2nd floor,
1235 Wilson Ave., Toronto ON M3M 0B2



How to get here:

Medical Daycare is located on level 2. The closest entrance is Portal C on the South side of the building. Take the West Outpatient Elevators to the 2nd floor.

Why am I getting my PICC removed?

We had inserted a PICC into your arm to receive medicine, solutions, or other treatments directly into your bloodstream.

You may now be getting your PICC removed because:

- Your treatment is finished
- The remaining treatment does not need a PICC, or
- Your PICC has developed problems.

How do I prepare for the PICC removal?

On the day of the procedure, you may eat and drink as you normally would.

What do I bring to the hospital?

- Your health card (OHIP) and a photo ID.
- A list of all medicines you are taking, or the actual medicines in original containers. Include over-the-counter medicines, herbals and supplements.
- If you have known allergies, wear your Medic Alert® bracelet while in the hospital.
- If you normally use a walker, wheelchair, or cane, please bring it with you to the hospital.

Please do not bring any valuables.

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How is the procedure done?

The procedure will take about 30 minutes. You will not need a local anesthetic (numbing medicine).

BEFORE THE PROCEDURE:

- You will be lying down on a stretcher.

DURING THE PROCEDURE:

- Your healthcare provider will remove the adhesive dressing around your PICC.
- As you exhale, they will slowly pull your PICC out. You will feel some pressure, but should not feel any pain.

AT THE END OF THE PROCEDURE:

- Your healthcare provider will put firm pressure on the site for about 5 to 10 minutes to help stop any bleeding.
- Once the bleeding stops, your healthcare provider will cover the site with a gauze or petroleum-based pressure bandage.
- After about 15 to 30 minutes, your nurse will check the site and let you know when it is okay to go home.
- You should be able to drive yourself home.

Before you leave the hospital, let your nurse or healthcare provider know if:

- You do not feel well
- Your wound is bleeding
- You feel lightheaded or dizzy
- You are short of breath.



How do I care for myself at home?

WOUND CARE:

- For the first 24 hours, keep the wound covered with the bandage. Make sure the wound and bandage are clean and dry. You may remove the bandage after 24 hours.
- If your wound starts to bleed, lie on your back and apply pressure to the site for at least 5 minutes. You may apply a new bandage once the bleeding stops.

BATHING:

- Do not shower or bathe for the first 24 hours.

ACTIVITY:

- For the first 24 hours, do not lift anything heavier than 10 lb (4.5 kg) (such as a laundry basket filled with towels or jeans). Lifting heavy items may raise your blood pressure, which could cause your wound to open and bleed.
- You may return to your normal activities after 24 hours.

Go to the nearest emergency department if:

- The bleeding does not stop, even after applying pressure to the site for 5 minutes. Keep pressure on the site until you have arrived at the hospital.
- You have signs that the wound is infected, which may include:
 - » A fever of 38.5°C (101.3°F) or above
 - » Redness at the site
 - » Swelling at the site
 - » Discharge/drainage (such as pus) from the site.