



## **LINE CARE / MEDICATION DISPOSAL**

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES TO PREVENT INFECTION**

- Wash hands before touching your IV and/or your medications.
- Use clean and sterile supplies only. Keep the supplies in a dry place.
- Keep pets and children and pets away from your line.
- Keep your IV bandage (dressing) clean and dry. Call your home health nurse if your dressing becomes loose or wet.
- Ask your health care provider if you can take showers. You may only be allowed to take sponge baths for bathing. When/if allowed to shower:
  - Ensure your line and dressing are covered in Aquaguard/clear plastic wrap and taped so everything stays dry.
- Check the IV insertion site every day for signs of infection. Check for:
  - Drainage
  - Redness, swelling, or pain
  - Warmth
  - Bad smell

### **THINGS TO AVOID**

- Never pull tug on your IV.
- Do not remove your IV on your own. Only a trained clinical professional should remove the line.
- Do not use force to flush your line. Flush line as instructed. Let your health care provider know right away if your IV is hard to flush or does not flush.
- Do not take baths, swim, or use a hot tub until your health care provider approves.
- Do not use scissors or sharp objects near the line.
- Do not reuse needles, syringes, or any other supplies.

### **OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- Always keep you IV line clamped, unless it is being used if a clamp is on your line.
- Keep all follow-up visits as directed by your health care provider. This is important.

### **CONTACT A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IF**

- You have pain in your arm, ear, face, or teeth.
- You have a fever or chills.
- You have redness, swelling, or pain around the insertion site.
- You have fluid or blood coming from the insertion site.
- Your insertion site feels warm to the touch.
- You have pus or a bad smell coming from the insertion site.
- Your skin feels hard and raised around the insertion site.



### **GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF**

- Your line is accidentally pulled all the way out. If this happens, cover the insertion site with a bandage or gauze dressing. Do not throw the line away. Your health care provider will need to check it.
- Your line was tugged or pulled and has partially come out. Do not push the line back in.
- You cannot flush the line, it is hard to flush, or the PICC leaks around the insertion site when it is flushed.
- You hear a "flushing" sound when the PICC is flushed.
- You feel your heart racing or skipping beats.
- There is a hole or tear in the PICC.
- You have swelling in the arm in which the PICC was inserted.
- You have a red streak going up your arm from where the PICC was inserted.

### **DISPOSAL OF SUPPLIES**

- Throw away any needles in a disposal container that is meant for sharp items (we will provide you a sharps container). Throw the container away when approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
  - Be prepared – carry a portable sharps container for travel.
- Products that may be flushed down the sink: TPN, hydration. Products that may NOT be flushed down the sink: antibiotics / antiviral / antifungal, IVIG, chemo, solu-medrol.
- Prior to disposal, remove labels or mark off your name. Put IV bags/elastomeric pump in a double non-transparent bag or container. Then tape or seal shut to prevent leakage. Discard in your garbage can.