

# Health PEI

## ***SAFER PRACTICE NOTICE***

### **Power PICC Solo Catheter Fractures Date: October 2024**

#### **Issue:**

There have been 11 reported patient safety incidents involving **4F single-lumen Power PICC in 2024**. Although this represents a small percentage of PICC line insertions, this is an increase in the number of reported PICC line patient safety incidents. When the lines were removed, the PICC lines were found to have a hole in the part of the tubing that is inside the patient's body. All incidents were reported to Health Canada's Medical Device Sentinel Network (CMDSNet)

Health PEI representatives met with the manufacturer and will continue to work with them to help identify the root cause. Unfortunately, at this time the manufacturer does not have a replacement product. HPEI is exploring alternative/replacement products and solutions, however, this also involves changing out ultrasound equipment and could take weeks to source and/or secure.

There are some risks associated with continued use of 4F single-lumen Power PICC solo catheters, especially with patients at a higher risk of infiltration and extravasation, including patients receiving chemotherapy or medications with a pH that deviates far from normal.

#### **Going forward:**

- PCH and QEH patients who have or require a PICC line for chemotherapy will **not have** treatment provided via a 4F single lumen PICC line. These patients will be assessed for possible 5F double lumen and/or may be referred for IVAD (implanted vascular access device).
- All other patients will be assessed prior to insertion and the most appropriate PICC size will be selected based on clinical assessment. There will be conversations with the most responsible practitioner (MRP) and the patient regarding education, risk and consent.

#### **All Nursing Staff:**

- Frequently inspect the PICC insertion site every shift and as needed for any signs of leaking (e.g. wetness/fluid/ medication under the dressing, wetness in bedsheets under the PICC arm).
- Assess the patient's arm for pain, swelling, or change in temperature with infusion of fluid through PICC line.
- Measure the circumference of the PICC arm daily and compare it to the measurement taken on insertion to ensure it does not increase.
- **Report any signs/symptoms of a problem to the vascular access nurse for further assessment.**

- Provide regular education to patients/families on signs or symptoms to watch for that might indicate a leak in their line and what to do if a leak is suspected.
- Document all conversations with patients/families including but limited to informed consent and education that was provided.
- Document any identified concerns with the PICC lines in PSMS using the **Medical Device Incident (MDI) Form** taking care to include proper product identifiers. Save any PICC product related to a confirmed or suspected leak in a biohazard bag and notify materials management.

**Definition:** PICC stands for a Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter. A PICC line is a long thin tube that is typically inserted through a vein in your arm. It is a form of intravenous access that can be used for a prolonged period of time. PICC lines are used to deliver many types of intravenous therapy including medications, chemotherapy, nutrition, etc. HPEI has specially trained RNs who insert PICC lines.

**For more information on this Safer Practice Notice, please contact:**

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**Safer Practice Notices are issued by the Health PEI Quality and Patient Safety Division to communicate recommended changes as a result of events that have been reported and investigated through the Provincial Safety Management System (PSMS).**

Safer Practice Notices can be found at: <https://src.healthpei.ca/safer-practice-notices>