

Memorandum

Date: December 4th, 2023
To: Frontline Clinical Staff – Alberta Children’s Hospital
From: Interventional Radiology – Alberta Children’s Hospital
RE: NEW – ACH PICC Team

The Issue:

We have recognized that due to competing demands, the Interventional Radiology team has needed to prioritize certain procedures and acuities. Due to this, procedures are being delayed to after hours or next available day to be completed. For certain patients and procedures, this could mean numerous venous access attempts, increased patient distress/discomfort, and the potential for longer hospital stays.

The Solution:

Effective immediately, the Interventional Radiology team has begun training and implementation of a PICC team to meet the needs of this patient population. This team will allow patients requiring advance venous access (PICC lines) to have their procedures completed in a timelier manner. In addition to easier access, the technology being used by the PICC team will move the procedures away from being done with fluoroscopy (x-ray) to being done with ECG Tip Placement, which is now considered to be the gold standard across many centers.

The Request to Operational Areas:

When a PICC line is required to be inserted, you may begin to see members of the PICC team present on the unit to assess patients to determine eligibility criteria. Units will be receiving calls from the PICC team with requests to ensure patients are in their rooms prior to assessment, and to place topic anesthesia on the marked locations once procedure times have been confirmed. In an effort to standardize with the Advance Vascular Access Services (AVAS) teams in Calgary Zone, mediation orders, imaging orders, and post-procedure orders may be signed to the patient’s attending physician. In accordance with the [Safe Surgery Checklist](#), attending physicians will need to be present for the Briefing once the team is in independent practice.

As this team is launched, we recognize that there are going to be times where the PICC team is going to need to be under observation as skills are further solidified. We will continue to keep the site involved in all developmental changes as the team progresses to independent practice. We appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding as we continue to grow this team.

Please refer to the **Frequently Asked Questions** for additional details.

For Additional Information on ECG Tip Placement Confirmation:

Rosche, N., Stehr, W., & M.D, (2018). Evaluation of a Magnetic Tracking and Electrocardiogram-based Tip Confirmation System for Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters in Pediatric Patients. *Journal of Infusion Nursing*, 41, 301-308.
<https://doi.org/10.1097/NAN.0000000000000293>

Yang, L., et al, (2019). Intracavitary electrocardiogram guidance for placement for peripherally inserted central catheters in premature infants. *Medicine*, 98(50).
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/MD.00000000000018368>

