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## Prevention of Central Line-associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABSI)

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At Greenville Health System (GHS), our goal is to provide safe and effective care. We want to partner with you to prevent dangerous infections. Your healthcare team at GHS wants you to know what can be done to prevent this infection and the role your healthcare team, yourself (the patient) and your family play in preventing this infection.

### What is a central line or central venous catheter (CVC)?

A central line or CVC is a thin tube that is placed into a large vein, usually in the neck, chest or arm. A PICC line (peripherally inserted central catheter) is placed in a large vein in the arm. A central line placed in the scalp of a small child also is considered a PICC if it extends into a large vein in the chest.

Any tube entering the body makes it easier for germs to get into the bloodstream, so these central lines or PICC lines are only to be used for treatments as intended, such as dialysis, chemotherapy and certain antibiotics.

Central lines or PICCs are at a much higher risk for infection than IVs in small veins in the forearms and hands. The central line or PICC only will be used for removing blood for lab work or giving medications treatments when a smaller vein is not available.

### What is a CLABSI?

A central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) occurs when germs move along a central line and enter the bloodstream.

A CLABSI is a serious infection. With attentive care of the central line, including following good hand hygiene practices, cleaning the parts of the line used to deliver medication and give or remove fluids, and using sterile practice when changing dressings, this infection can be prevented.

### Why do I need a central line or CVC?

Central lines and PICC lines are used to give medications through a large vein. A large vein can tolerate an IV tube or catheter for a longer time than a small vein found in the hands or forearm. For some medications and treatments, using a central line or PICC is the only way or the safest way to give them.

### What Your Healthcare Team Will Do to Prevent CLABSI

- Use only sterile equipment when inserting the central line or PICC
- Frequently wash hands with soap and warm water and/or hand sanitizer when caring for you and your central line or PICC
- Use disinfectant pads to clean the parts of the line used to put in or remove fluids (“scrub the hub”)
- Wear a mask and ask you to wear one when changing the dressing on the central line or PICC
- Use sterile equipment when changing the dressing on the central line or PICC
- Only use the central line or PICC as long as it is needed

If a member of your healthcare team fails to complete any of the items above, please stop that person. These errors can cause infections!

### What You and Your Family Can Do to Prevent CLABSI

- Wash hands with soap and warm water or hand sanitizer when visiting you or caring for your central line or PICC at home
- Avoid touching the parts of the central line or PICC used for giving fluids or medications
- Keep the dressing on your central line or PICC clean and dry at all times; contact your healthcare team if the dressing is coming off the skin or appears dirty or wet
- Watch for signs of infection and report these to your healthcare team (signs of infection include chills, fever, or warmth, pain, redness or oozing/discharge at the central line or PICC site)

### Our Commitment to You

At GHS we are committed to patient safety and providing high-quality care. We consider our patients and families a vital part of their healthcare team.

If you have any questions, please talk to your healthcare team.