

Do these dressings need to be changed?



Note: dried blood can be wiped from arm.

Scenario:

These PICCs were inserted 24 hours ago. Patients both have visible clot around insertion site underneath CHG gel. You have paged the vascular access nurse to perform the “initial” dressing change. When does the dressing need to be changed?

- A. Today because the parent wants it changed.
- B. On the next shift.
- C. 7 days from PICC insertion date.
- D. Before patient’s discharge.



Correct answer: **C**

Rationale: Sterile technique is used for all PICC insertions. This provides an optimal environment for dressing application. After catheter insertion, bleeding is normal and may occur while PICC is in place from normal arm motion. A clot forms around the PICC line when the bleeding stops. If dressing is removed from PICC line due to its ‘excessive drainage’ appearance, the clot is disrupted and bleeding may re-occur. Frequent dressing changes outside of the sterile insertion environment can increase likelihood of line or site infections. Please do not change dressings unless saturated with blood extending to tegaderm border or dressing becomes loose or 7 days from insertion date.

Please contact the Vascular Access Nurse if you have any questions regarding PICC site care or other concerns regarding your patient’s PICC.

Thank you.

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