

VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT # 90- 6

TITLE: PICC Line Insertion and Removal by Registered Nurses under Appropriate Circumstances

At its meeting on January 27, 1993, the Board of Nursing adopted the following statement for guidance when response is made to questions about the role of the registered nurse in relation to Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters. The guidance was subsequently amended by the Board at its meeting on July 15, 2008.

In general, it is the position of the Board of Nursing that a registered nurse may insert and remove PICC lines upon order of a licensed physician and that the procedure is within the scope of practice of a registered nurse. In specific clinical practice settings, factors to be considered include

1. The registered nurse possesses substantial knowledge and experience in intravenous therapy.
2. The registered nurse has specialized education and can demonstrate competency in line placement. This documented education shall include a theoretical and clinical component.
3. The registered nurse documents continued competence in performing the skill.
4. The agency or institution employing said nurses has established policies and procedures regarding the use of these devices.
5. Radiological confirmation of catheter position is made when tip placement is positioned beyond the axillary vein prior to use of the PICC for any reason.
6. The placement of a PICC line may only be carried out in structured, clinical settings where the equipment and expertise of other health professionals to manage complications are readily available.

This recommendation is intended merely to be advisory.

Accepted: January 27, 1993

Amended: July 15, 2008