

Virginia Board of Nursing
Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters (PICC) Line Insertion and
Removal by Registered Nurses

Virginia Code § 54.1-3000 defines registered nursing as

the performance for compensation of any nursing acts in the observation, care and counsel of individuals or groups who are ill, injured or experiencing changes in normal health processes or the maintenance of health; in the prevention of illness or disease; in the supervision and teaching of those who are or will be involved in nursing care; in the delegation of selected nursing tasks and procedures to appropriately trained unlicensed persons as determined by the Board; or in the administration of medications and treatments as prescribed by any person authorized by law to prescribe such medications and treatment.

This definition includes the insertion and removal of Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters (PICC) lines or devices upon order of a licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner. 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 and removal. This documented education shall include a theoretical and clinical component.
3. The registered nurse documents continued competence in performing the skill and use of technology.
4. The agency or institution employing said nurses has established policies and procedures regarding insertion, use, removal, and maintenance of these devices.
5. Confirmation by radiologic or by other imaging technology of catheter position is required when tip placement is positioned beyond the axillary vein on insertion prior to use of the PICC for any reason.
6. The placement of a PICC line may only be carried out in settings where the equipment and expertise of other health professionals to manage complications are readily available.