



Northeast Georgia Medical Center

PICC Line Placement

How should I prepare for this procedure?

- You may eat and drink as normal prior to this procedure.
- For Gainesville procedures, you will need to arrive an hour and a half before your scheduled appointment time. For Braselton procedures, you will need to arrive an hour to an hour and a half before your scheduled appointment time. For Barrow procedures, you will need to arrive an hour before your scheduled appointment time.
- A nurse from the Interventional Radiology department will reach out to you via phone the day before your procedure.
- For your safety, you must have a caregiver or responsible adult with you to drive you home after your procedure. Due to the effects of anesthesia, sedation, or other post-procedural effects, you will not be able to drive yourself. Additionally, the responsible adult accompanying you will assume responsibility for you upon discharge. This person should be someone who can provide support and care as needed while you recover.

What should I expect when I arrive?

- For Gainesville, you will go to the registration department in the Blue tower of the hospital. When you arrive in the main lobby of the Blue tower, go down the hallway on your left. The registration department is located on the right. Labs will be drawn here if necessary.
- For Braselton, you will go in through the main entrance and check in at the desk. You will be directed to registration from there. Labs will be drawn here if necessary.
- For Barrow, you will go to the registration desk located inside the main entrance of the hospital.
- After registration, you will go to the radiology waiting room. A staff member will show you back to the Interventional Radiology department. Your driver can accompany you back to the prep area.
- When it is time to go to the IR lab for your procedure, your driver will be shown to the waiting room.

What medications will be offered during this procedure?

- There are no medications offered for this procedure.

What should I expect during my procedure?

- When it is time for your procedure, your nurse will take you to the IR lab.
- Large drapes might be placed over your body where the PICC will be inserted.
- When your nurse and tech are ready, the provider will be paged to the procedure room.
- A tourniquet will be placed on your arm to control blood flow to the area.
- A small needle will be put into your vein, and then a small guidewire will be slid into your SVC.
- The catheter will be advanced over the guidewire and moved into place. The guidewire will then be removed.



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- The catheter will be flushed, and blood will be drawn back to make sure the catheter is in the vein.
- If the catheter was placed without X-ray guidance, an X-ray will be done to make sure that the catheter tip is in the correct position.
- The PICC will be secured to your skin using stitches (*sutures*), tape, or a device that sticks to your skin.
- A type of germ-free bandage (*sterile dressing*), such as an airtight (*occlusive*) sterile dressing, will be placed over the PICC insertion site.

What should I expect after my procedure?

- Minor discomfort may be present that should be controllable by over-the-counter medications (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, etc.) or whatever you normally take for pain at home. No pain medication prescriptions will be provided on discharge. Any significant pain post-procedure would warrant a trip to the ER or a call to the ordering physician.
- There is no recovery time for this procedure. You will be discharged home after your procedure with your PICC line in place.