

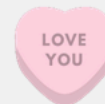


The latest from the leader in vascular access education



PICC Excellence Newsletter

February 2025



Why We Love the Healthcare Field

If we could express our feelings about the healthcare field and the vascular access specialty on a conversation heart, it would read "True Love." But our passion runs deeper than just words.

We love what we do because we make a difference by supporting others in their educational pursuits and helping them enhance their skills. For patients, this means fewer unnecessary needle sticks—thanks to trained professionals who can place an IV or PICC line successfully on the first try.

We also cherish the sense of community fostered through national and regional professional associations and their affiliates. Each year, we eagerly anticipate the annual meetings where we can share our passion with like-minded professionals.

We hope you'll come to love for this fascinating specialty as much as we do.

Seeing Your Shadow Can Be a Good Thing!

Don't let the idea of shadows scare you—shadowing is one of the best ways to gain hands-on experience with vascular access techniques you may not encounter daily. At PICC Excellence, we partner with centers of excellence and other facilities to offer customized shadowing programs tailored to your learning needs.

These programs are coordinated among the student, the facility, and a PICC Excellence representative to ensure a seamless experience.



Q&A with Dr. Nancy Moureau



Dr. Nancy Moureau offers counsel to hundreds of practitioners around the world. Each month we share a question from a colleague, which she answers pulling from her decades of experience in the field. If you have a question for Dr. Moureau, email it to info@piccexcellence.com.

QUESTION

We have a dilemma about performing a PICC insertion when a patient has a pacemaker. Is a cardiovascular electronic implantable device a contraindication for inserting a PICC on the same side? I couldn't find a clear answer in the INS Standards of Practice.

ANSWER

This is an excellent question! The issue with pacemakers and PICC insertions is not widely documented or commonly encountered, which is likely why the Standards of Practice doesn't provide a definitive answer.

The key consideration is the timing of the pacemaker insertion. If the pacemaker is relatively new—within the last six months—it's best to avoid placing the PICC on the same side. For long-standing pacemakers, the concern is much less significant.

The primary risk is displacing the pacemaker leads during PICC insertion or removal. While contraindications aren't always absolute, they serve as important reminders of potential complications. In cases like this, it's essential to:

- Assess the situation thoroughly.
- Communicate any concerns both verbally and in the medical record.
- Proceed with caution, fully aware of the possible risks.

Contraindications should encourage careful thought and preparation, ensuring patient safety remains the top priority.

Just for Fun!

Keep your brain sharp with a fun word search on IV Therapy Mastery. Can you find all the terms?



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