

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

VASCULAR ACCESS DEVICES

Allow for repeated, long-term venous access. A peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) is a thin, flexible catheter that is surgically placed into a vein in the arm and guided to the heart. A Port consists of a catheter threaded into a large vein near the heart and attached to a port under the skin in the chest. The Port is then accessed as needed using a special needle inserted through the skin. As an implanted medical device, all vascular access devices require monitoring for device malfunction or failure and infection. Manufacturer guidelines should be followed for safety restrictions or precautions specific to the device. Damage or removal of the line can be a life-threatening emergency.

WARNING SIGNS

- Catheter is dislodged or pulled out
- Catheter is broken, leaking
- Bleeding
- Port appears to have moved or shifted under the skin
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Headache

ESSENTIAL STEPS

1. Do not leave student unattended.
2. Contact the school nurse/health room.
3. If catheter broken or leaking, clamp the tubing above the break.
4. Position child on left side to prevent an air bubble from entering the heart.
5. If catheter dislodged, apply direct pressure and cover with a pressure dressing.
6. Call 911.

