



BLUEWATER HEALTH

July 27, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

In 2018, Bluewater Health launched an out-patient clinic for peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) lines. The clinic is nurse-led, with registered nurses inserting the PICC lines. Clinic volumes have increased each year and the clinic now also accommodates some in-patient referrals. The clinic is currently operating on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Criteria for PICC lines include:

- Administration of irritable/vesicant medications
- Critically ill patients requiring multi-lumen access
- Long-term infusion therapy greater than one week
- Chemotherapy
- Poor peripheral venous access
- Frequent venous access for infusion or blood products
- Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN)
- Other

Process for Referring a Patient to the PICC Clinic:

- The PICC Clinic referral form has been revised and is accessible at www.bluewaterhealth.ca . Please click on the Healthcare Providers link and scroll down to the PICC Clinic information.
- **Both** pages of the referral form must be completed in full and faxed to the Bluewater Health Pre-Admission Clinic at 519-464-4509.
- The referral form includes information that must be reviewed with (and signed by) the patient prior to submitting the referral.
- The Pre-Admission Clinic staff will review the referral and if criteria for the PICC clinic are met, will contact the patient with an appointment date and time.
- On the day of their appointment, patients will register at Patient Registration and then be directed to the PICC Clinic.
- Please be aware that the referring practitioner must have **admitting privileges** at Bluewater Health, **Sarnia site**.
- PICC Clinic patients are registered under the referring practitioner as MRP and the MRP is responsible for consent, orders, and follow-up.

We are proud to contribute in this way to our shared goal of quality care for Sarnia-Lambton residents, close to home.

Sincerely,

Mike Haddad, MD, MSc, FRCSC
Chief of Staff