

Important update about your PICC Line

You are receiving this update because our records show that you currently have a BD 4Fr Power PICC Line inserted. Please read this important information that will help you stay safe.

A possible issue has been identified with a specific type of PICC line: the BD 4Fr Power PICC. For example, some of these lines have developed a crack in them.

This does not mean your PICC line will stop working, but it's important to watch for any signs that there might be a problem.

What should I look for?

Contact your district nurse, treatment centre or specialist immediately if you notice any of the following:

- **swelling** where the PICC line goes into your body, or in your arm
- **pain** in your arm or near the site of the PICC line
- signs of a **blood clot** (such as redness, tenderness, or warmth in the arm)
- **leakage** of any fluid where the PICC line goes into your body.

What should I do if I notice a problem?

- **Contact your clinical team** as soon as possible. They will assess your PICC line and decide if it needs to be replaced.
- Most issues can easily be resolved.

If you don't experience any of the symptoms listed above, you and your clinical team can continue using your PICC line as normal.

Regular monitoring and following your healthcare team's advice are essential for you to stay safe.

What if I don't have this type of PICC line?

The BD 4Fr Power PICC is purple in colour and looks like this photo. If you're unsure whether this applies to you, your healthcare team can confirm this for you.



Are these PICC lines still being used?

Existing 4Fr PICCs will remain in place unless any problems arise.

We are using alternative products for new insertions – a different size or brand.

We are actively monitoring this situation, and your healthcare team will update you if there are any further developments.

Need help or more information?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your clinical team. Your safety is our priority.

Phone: _____

Email: _____

After-hours support: _____

Additional background information

- A PICC line means a peripherally inserted central catheter line. It is a long, flexible tube that is inserted into a vein, and is used to give medicines or fluids.
- Our clinicians have reported issues with some 4Fr Bard/BD PICC lines. For example, the PICC line has developed a crack in the catheter body, leading to leakage during infusion.
- In response, Health NZ has taken a precautionary approach, to reduce any clinical and patient risks. We have alerted our clinical teams, so they check closely for any issues. We are also moving to use alternative products for new PICC line insertions.
- Health New Zealand has worked closely with Pharmac and Ministry of Health on this issue. A product safety alert has been issued by the manufacturer.
- This is not a product recall. There is no requirement to remove this type of PICC line, unless catheter damage is suspected.
- This alert relates solely to 4Fr Bard/BD PICC lines – it does not involve other sizes of BD PICC lines, or other brands.