

Thanks to CR Bard

Clinician Competency:

INS (Intravenous Nursing Society) recommends that an institution create a set criteria to evaluate the competency of nurses learning to place PICC Line / Midline catheters. This process should be ongoing such as a yearly competency of nurses placing PICC Line or Midline catheters.

However, it should be noted that nurses can not be certified in PICC Line or Midline catheter placement or care and maintenance. The formal definition for certification involves taking a test from an organization or state with a certification board. However, nurses may be qualified (deemed competent) for PICC Line or Midline Catheter placement or care and maintenance, in your particular institution. It has been suggested by some State Boards of Nursing that nurses observe (1) – (3) successful insertions and performs under supervision (3) – (5) successful insertions. Some State Boards of Nursing require that the employer keep this documentation on file.

For your convenience a template has been developed for clinician competency in the form of a checklist. Please fill free to utilize this template in creating your own institution competency evaluation form.

Qualification Requirements for PICC Line & Midline Catheter Insertion

Qualifying training, experience and evaluation:

- Successfully complete theoretical course with Didactic (with supervised practicum)
- Successful insertion PICC Line and / or Midline catheter on Peter PICC® or practice arm
- Observe _____ successful insertions by a qualified clinician placing PICC Lines or Midline catheters
- Be observed placing _____ successful insertions by a qualified preceptor placing PICC Lines and / or Midline catheters (see qualification skills checklist)

Annual re-qualifying experience and evaluation:

Competency Skills Checklist:

Competency Skill PICC Line / Midline Catheter Placement	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Prior to PICC Line or Midline Catheter insertion the competent clinician will:		
<p style="text-align: center;">Review patient chart for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Physician order (for Midline catheter insertion the physician order is for fluids or a standard peripheral catheter) <input type="checkbox"/> Patient allergies <input type="checkbox"/> Patient coagulation status <input type="checkbox"/> Patient contradictions to vascular access placement <input type="checkbox"/> Patient labs and medial history 		
<p style="text-align: center;">Explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Procedure to patient <input type="checkbox"/> Catheter management to patient <input type="checkbox"/> Obtain signed consent form (PICC Line only) 		
<p style="text-align: center;">Identify, Evaluate and Select:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate vein <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate insertion site <input type="checkbox"/> Location of artery <input type="checkbox"/> Choose appropriate catheter length and gauge size <input type="checkbox"/> Position patient properly <input type="checkbox"/> Correctly measures patient properly for catheter tip location <input type="checkbox"/> (optional) measures arm width 		
<p style="text-align: center;">Set-Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Gathers appropriate equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Wash Hands <input type="checkbox"/> Set up equipment and sterile field with sterile technique / Utilize universal precautions / Utilize full barrier precautions <input type="checkbox"/> Preflushed catheter / syringes / extension sets etc. (trimming optional) 		
During PICC Line and Midline Insertion:		

<p>A. Perform appropriate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Skin Prep (place tourniquet /change gloves) <input type="checkbox"/> Sterile draping of insertion arm and site 		
<p>Competency Skill PICC Line / Midline Catheter Placement</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p>	<p>Not Satisfactory</p>
<p>During PICC Line and Midline Insertion:</p>		
<p>Perform Appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Venipuncture / observe flashback <input type="checkbox"/> Modified Seldinger® (optional) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use of wire ✓ Use of Scalpel ✓ Use of dilator <input type="checkbox"/> Advance Catheter (check patient positioning of head) <input type="checkbox"/> Remove introducer (dilator) <input type="checkbox"/> Remove guidewire <input type="checkbox"/> Attach hub (Groshong®) <input type="checkbox"/> Ascertain blood return <input type="checkbox"/> Suture or utilize securing method <input type="checkbox"/> Apply dressing 		
<p>Upon Completion of insertion:</p>		
<p><u>Document in patient medical record:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Allergies <input type="checkbox"/> Site limitations <input type="checkbox"/> Blood coagulation problems <input type="checkbox"/> Patient complications that occurred during insertion <input type="checkbox"/> Contraindications to usage of line placed <input type="checkbox"/> Patient teaching / Patient consent <input type="checkbox"/> Anesthetic used <input type="checkbox"/> Catheter gauge size (french), number of lumens, length, suspected tip position (awaiting x-ray), vein and insertion site <input type="checkbox"/> Describe general sterile insertion and problems encountered <input type="checkbox"/> Arm circumference (optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Catheter lot number and brand <input type="checkbox"/> Catheter method of securement and dressing <input type="checkbox"/> Blood return and flushing <input type="checkbox"/> Contact Radiology for chest x-ray 		
<p>Provide the patient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Patient care handbook and care instruction 		

Provide the nursing staff		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Patient status report <input type="checkbox"/> Instructions: flush protocol, hot packs, dressing changes 		
Competency Skill PICC Line / Midline Catheter Placement	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Upon Completion of insertion:		
<p style="text-align: center;">Contact Radiology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Confirm catheter tip position and re-position / re-dress if needed or send to Interventional Radiology for re-positioning if available <input type="checkbox"/> Ascertain nursing staff has been contacted and physician regarding catheter tip position and usage <input type="checkbox"/> Document approval from Radiology or Attending Physician to use catheter for infusion 		
For Discontinuation of catheter:		
A. Review order for catheter removal		
B. Assess need for catheter tip culture and or blood cultures (perform if needed)		
C. Removal process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wash hands / Utilize universal precautions <input type="checkbox"/> Assess patient and site <input type="checkbox"/> Speed of removal (slow) Observe how clinician handles complications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If unable to remove apply heat and wait ✓ If unable to remove contact physician for possible x-ray or venogram need <input type="checkbox"/> Confirm catheter measurement 		
D. Documentation post removal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Patient complications during removal <input type="checkbox"/> Measurement of catheter length compared to insertion length <input type="checkbox"/> Patient tolerance <input type="checkbox"/> Cultures or labs sent for analysis 		
E. Report to Staff Nurse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Any complications during removal of catheter / How to handle complications <input type="checkbox"/> Patient tolerance 		

Attach list of articles / manufacturer literature / continuing education related to re-qualification of competency for PICC Line and / or Midline catheter insertion.

Summary:

If we review State Board of Nursing recommendations and INS (Intravenous Nursing Society Standards & Position Statement) the following conclusions regarding PICC Line qualifications for a Registered Nurse can be drawn. Midlines have few recommendations from State Board of Nursing Agencies except to say that they do not have to be x-rayed. There is no documentation that Midlines need a separate physician order besides the originally written physician order. PICC Lines however, have consistent recommendations as follows from state to state:

1. The RN who wishes to place and remove PICC Lines should attend an educational course that lasts approximately 6 – 8 hours in duration
2. This course must include: anatomy, physiology, care and maintenance, pharmacology, patient education, patient selection, emergency and non-emergency complication management, sterile insertion technique, quality assurance management and data collection
3. This course must have a theoretical component and a hands on practicum with supervision
4. The employer must have policies and procedures available on insertion and complication management
5. The RN who places PICC Lines must prove that they have attended a course and the employer should have proof of attendance on file
6. The RN who places PICC Lines needs to prove competency in the technique of PICC Lines placement. Some states have defined this competency as (1 – 3) observed insertions and (3-5) successful insertions observed by a proficient RN. This documentation should be on file with the employer.
7. The RN who places PICC Lines needs to prove competency yearly
8. The RN who is learning to place PICC Lines should be precepted by a competent, qualified, and knowledgeable RN
9. Radiographic confirmation of catheter tip position is optimal
10. The LVN or LPN role in PICC Line placement is limited
11. PICC Lines should have a written physician order
12. Continuing education is a requirement for nurses placing PICC Lines