

VERMONT STATE BOARD OF NURSING

**INSERTION OF PERIPHERALLY INSERTED CENTRAL CATHETERS
(PICC LINES)**

POSITION STATEMENT

QUESTION: Can an RN insert a PICC Line?

DEFINITION - Peripheral Inserted Central Catheter (PICC):

An intravenous access device inserted in the ante cubital fossa region or upper arm utilizing the basilic, cephalic or median cubital vein with distal tip terminating in the lower third of the superior vena cava.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE:

It is within the scope of practice of a registered nurse to insert PICC lines providing there is documented evidence of the following:

1. completion of a formal education program which includes a theoretical and clinical component in patient assessment, equipment use, insertion techniques such as microintroducer technique and ultra sound, and PICC management strategies;
2. demonstration of knowledge and skill in performing the procedure including knowledge of actions to be taken if an emergency or a problem with the patient's condition occurs;
3. institution policies and procedures supportive of the PICC insertion by RNs;
4. available resources necessary to provide safe implementation and monitoring of this procedure; and
5. signed medical order to perform the procedure.

This Position Statement represents the Board's current thinking. Position statements are not legally binding.

Approved: January 2008