

PICC DRESSING CHANGE DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES

Documenting a PICC (Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter) dressing change in a patient's medical record is crucial to patient care, as it ensures proper communication among healthcare providers and records the patient's condition. Here are the steps to document a PICC dressing change in the patient's medical record:

1. Date and Time:

- Clearly document the date and time of the PICC dressing change. Use a standardized format (e.g., mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM) to avoid confusion.

2. Patient Assessment:

- Describe the patient's general condition, including vital signs (if relevant) and any specific complaints or concerns related to the PICC line or dressing change.

3. Dressing Change Details:

- Specify the type of dressing change performed (e.g., regular change, due to contamination, etc.).
- Note the type and size of the new dressing used.
- Document any abnormalities or complications observed during the dressing change, such as redness, swelling, or drainage at the insertion site.

4. PICC Site Assessment:

- Provide a detailed assessment of the PICC insertion site, including:
 - Skin condition and integrity.
 - Any signs of infection, inflammation, or complications.
 - Catheter position and length from the insertion site.
 - Patency and functionality of the catheter (if applicable).

5. Cleaning and Sterilization:

- Describe the antiseptic solution used for cleaning the PICC site (e.g., chlorhexidine or alcohol).
- Note the method used for cleansing and how long you allowed the site to air dry, if applicable.

6. Dressing Application:

- Explain how the new dressing was applied, including the technique used and any securement devices.
- Mention any specific patient instructions given regarding the care of the new dressing.

7. Patient Education:

- Document any patient education provided during or after the dressing change, including instructions on recognizing signs of infection or complications.

8. Signatures and Credentials:

- Sign your entry with your name, title, and credentials (e.g., RN, LPN, MD) to indicate that you performed the dressing change and documentation.

9. Communication:

- Mention any communication with the patient's healthcare team regarding the dressing change, especially if there were concerns or deviations from the standard procedure.

10. Follow-Up Plan:

- If applicable, document the schedule for the following dressing change or any follow-up appointments related to the PICC line.

11. Legibility and Clarity:

- Ensure that your documentation is legible, clear, and organized. Use standard medical terminology and abbreviations if appropriate.

12. Electronic Health Records (EHR):

- If your facility uses an electronic health record system, follow the designated format for entering the information. Make sure to navigate to the correct section or module for PICC-related documentation.

13. Review and Reviewer Signature:

- In some healthcare settings, another healthcare provider may review and co-sign entries for specific procedures, including PICC dressing changes.

14. Submission and Filing:

- Ensure the documentation is properly submitted or filed within your facility's medical record system.

By following these steps and maintaining accurate, comprehensive documentation of PICC dressing changes, healthcare providers can track the patient's progress, respond to any emerging issues, and

ensure the highest level of patient care. Always adhere to your facility's specific documentation policies and guidelines.

Example of PICC Dressing change narrative when no complication observed:

Date: September 24, 2023 Time: 0900

Patient: John Doe Age: 55 Room: 203

Procedure: PICC Dressing Change

Narrative Note: I, Nurse [Your Name], performed a PICC dressing change for Mr. John Doe in room 203. The procedure was carried out aseptically, and the site was inspected for any signs of infection or complications, none of which were observed. The dressing was changed with a sterile technique, and a transparent occlusive dressing was applied securely. The patient tolerated the procedure well without any discomfort.

[Your Signature] RN License: [Your License Number]

Example of PICC Dressing changed narrative when complication observed:

Date: September 24, 2023 Time: 0900

Patient: Mary Smith Age: 45 Room: 305

Procedure: PICC Dressing Change

Narrative Note: During the PICC dressing change for Mrs. Mary Smith in room 305, I observed erythema and localized swelling at the insertion site. The patient reported tenderness. No purulent drainage is present. I informed the charge nurse and ordered a wound culture. MD notified.

[Your Signature] RN License: [Your License Number]

Example of a PICC dressing change nursing note in narrative when the line was dislodged:

Date: September 24, 2023 Time: 0900

Patient: Jane Johnson Age: 60 Room: 402

Procedure: PICC Dressing Change

Narrative Note: During PICC dressing change for Ms. Jane Johnson in room 402, PICC line was accidentally dislodged. Immediately clamped line, informed charge nurse, and secured dressing over the site. No bleeding noted. MD notified for further evaluation and possible reinsertion.

[Your Signature] RN License: [Your License Number]