

## PICC EXCELLENCE NEWS

DECEMBER 2023

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Have you started your holiday (work)shopping? Now is the time to start planning your continuing education requirements for next year. We're expanding our in-person workshops to cover more topics in more locations. From CVAD training in Paterson, New Jersey to UGPV Mastery in Greenville, South Carolina, you'll find plenty of opportunities for hands-on learning in 2024.

PICC Excellence is still the foremost online resource for vascular access training. With more than 80 courses covering topics that are relevant to your career, our online courses provide educational value that fits your schedule. If you have a team that needs to fulfill their training requirements, consider purchasing a [multi-user site license](#) so you can have your pick of our course library on-demand.

Please let us know of any other way we can help you with coordinated trainings for your staff.





## IV Therapy and UGPIV Workshops in Greenville, SC

If you're interested in earning your IV Therapy or UGPIV Mastery Certificate, we are launching a series of one-day workshops for clinicians to complete an in-person demonstration and skills assessment. The IV Therapy Workshop includes access to the complete IV Therapy Mastery course bundle for one year, and the UGPIV Workshop includes access to the [UGPIV Mastery Toolbox](#).

IV Therapy Workshop meets State Board of Nursing (SBON) requirements for initial IVT training.

IV Therapy Workshop Dates: [March 12](#) and [May 13](#)

UGPIV Workshop Dates: [January 22](#), [March 18](#) and [May 06](#)

**More Information About IV Therapy Mastery Certificate**

**More Information About UGPIV Mastery Certificate**

**Learn by shadowing top vascular access teams!**



## **Precepted Training Opportunities in Tacoma, Washington** ***Pediatric PICC, Midline and UGPIV Placement***

Expand your experience working with pediatric patients with an intensive five-day shadowing and precepted insertion opportunity in Tacoma, Washington. Attendees will focus on training for pediatric PICC, midline and UGPIV insertions and will have the chance to observe AND perform supervised insertions with the host hospital's vascular access specialist trainer.

This one-on-one workshop is scheduled based on dates of your choosing and coordinated with the facility and a PICC Excellence representative.

### **Precepted and Shadowing Opportunities in Tacoma, Washington**



# Q&A

with Dr. Nancy Moureau

## QUESTION

Hello Nancy,

Thank you so much for your response on LinkedIn.

I appreciate your time and am looking forward to what you have found. We are working with our quality department to adjust the order set for port care and maintenance as the wording seems that a patient with frequent push or intermittent piggy backs could be getting many heparin flushes per day. And since the manufacturers IFU still has the recommendation for heparin after every medication, we have to do a full risk assessment and literature review to change anything. So we will be learning a lot!

Thank you!

## ANSWER

Hello,

In answer to your question, there are a number of points to consider for all central catheters and ports alone. The issue of optimal flushing and locking agents has been studied in depth for the last 10 years. Since then, most facilities have moved away from using heparin as a locking agent for central devices and ports. While heparin may reduce the incidence of clotting, there are other risks involved. Heparin risk factors have included contamination of certain lots and the potential for bacterial growth within the heparin, all in addition to backorders and supply shortages. In a systematic review comparing the efficacy of heparin to saline flushing, heparin was not found to be superior to saline in terms of occlusion avoidance. In another study of cancer patients, the findings concluded that elimination of heparin could positively affect patient outcomes. Eliminating heparin also had some positive economic benefits since heparin is more expensive than using saline alone

for flushing. Conclusions for all CVADs indicated that saline-only flushing was safe and effective for the maintenance of catheter function and care without an increase in occlusions, even with ports. Dialysis catheters and Pheresis catheters commonly use heparin following treatment.

The next issue is the frequency of flushing for ports. In the past monthly flushing has been the standard. Numerous publications have recently addressed port flushing monthly, every other month, or even every three months to maintain port function without a considerable increase in risk. For your question specific to acute care flushing and the use of heparin after each usage, if we apply this same concept, we would consider heparin unnecessary during hospitalization, especially when the port is in use, and saline flushing follows any infusion or blood sampling. Some hospitals have eliminated heparin for day-to-day use and only instill heparin when the patient is discharged.

In conclusion, saline alone for flushing to maintain patency has been shown to be non-inferior to heparin and saline used to maintain patency of CVADs and, specifically, ports. I have included many references for you to review.

#### References:

Bertoglio S, Solari N, Meszaros P, Vassallo F, Bonvento M, Pastorino S, Bruzzi P. Efficacy of normal saline versus heparinized saline solution for locking catheters of totally implantable long-term central vascular access devices in adult cancer patients. *Cancer nursing*. 2012 Jul 1;35(4):E35-42.

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Solinas G, Platini F, Trivellato M, Rigo C, Alabiso O, Galetto AS. Port in oncology practice: 3-monthly locking with normal saline for catheter maintenance, a preliminary report. *The Journal of Vascular Access*. 2017 Jul;18(4):325-7.

Zhong L, Wang HL, Xu B, Yuan Y, Wang X, Zhang YY, Ji L, Pan ZM, Hu ZS. Normal saline versus heparin for patency of central venous catheters in adult patients-a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Critical Care*. 2017 Dec;21:1-9.

## Adult Vascular Access Ultrasound Precepted Training with the Vascular Access Team in Lewiston, ME *Topics Covered Include UGPIV, PICCs, Midlines*

In this five-day live insertion training experience, attendees will receive intensive training for PICCs, Midlines, UGPIV, and specific ultrasound education.

The training can be scheduled on dates of your choosing and will be coordinated between the facility and a PICC Excellence representative.

## Precepted and Shadowing Opportunities in Lewiston, Maine

### **CVAD and US Training with Shadowing & Observation in Paterson, NJ** ***Topics Covered Include UGPIV, Midlines, PICCs, Axillary CVADs, Mid-Thigh Femoral and Jugular catheters***

During this advanced three-day training experience attendees will have the opportunity to observe a variety of vascular access procedures, which may include UGPIV, Midlines, PICCs, Axillary CVADs, Mid-Thigh Femoral & Jugular catheters.

This training can be scheduled on dates of your choosing and will be coordinated between the facility and a PICC Excellence representative.

## Training and Shadowing Opportunities in Paterson, New Jersey



### **Adult PICC/Ultrasound Workshop in Atlanta** **January 25-26, 2024**

Ring in 2024 with two days of PICC training!

Day 1 covers the review and discussion of an essential PICC insertion and a practicum with simulated insertions.  
Day 2 integrates ultrasound assessment and guided access into the overall PICC insertion procedures.

**Register**

**2024 Dates Announced!**

[March 11-12](#)

[May 9-10](#)

**Before you go...leave us a review on Google!**

Did you get the best value and the best learning experience from the PICC Excellence courses that you've taken? Let us know by leaving us a review like this one:

*"Your program has the absolute best customer support of anything I've experienced. Lisa Siewert reached out to me and was able to assist me in cleaning my computer so that when I went back to retake the preceptor course it worked GREAT. Please give her kudos for a great job, and kudos to you as well for making me feel as though the money I spent on the course was well spent. Great courses and I found them very helpful and educational." - Debbie*

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