



Health through partnership
Caring with kindness

March 25, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

In 2018, Bluewater Health launched an out-patient clinic for peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) lines. The clinic is nurse-led, with registered nurses inserting the PICC lines. Clinic volumes have increased each year and the clinic now also accommodates some in-patient referrals. The clinic is currently operating on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Criteria for PICC lines include:

- Administration of irritable/vesicant medications
- Critically ill patients requiring multi-lumen access
- Long-term infusion therapy greater than one week
- Chemotherapy
- Poor peripheral venous access
- Frequent venous access for infusion or blood products
- Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN)
- Other

Process for Referring a Patient to the PICC Clinic:

- The PICC Clinic referral form has been revised and is accessible at www.bluewaterhealth.ca . Please click on the Healthcare Providers link and scroll down to the PICC Clinic information.
- **Both** pages of the referral form must be completed in full and faxed to the Bluewater Health Pre-Admission Clinic at 519-464-4509.
- The referral form includes information that must be reviewed with (and signed by) the patient prior to submitting the referral.
- The Pre-Admission Clinic staff will review the referral and if criteria for the PICC clinic are met, will contact the patient with an appointment date and time.
- On the day of their appointment, patients will register at Patient Registration and then be directed to the PICC Clinic.
- Please be aware that the referring practitioner must have **admitting privileges** at Bluewater Health, **either Sarnia or CEEH sites** and will be the patients MRP during the outpatient visit.

- PICC Clinic patients are registered under the referring practitioner as MRP and the MRP is responsible for consent, orders, follow-up, and backup the PICC nurses should the patient have any medical issues.
- If the patient needs urgent care, then the patient will be transferred to ED and the MRP shall contact the ED physician to give pertinent medical information.

We are proud to contribute in this way to our shared goal of quality care for Sarnia-Lambton residents, close to home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Haddad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "H".

Mike Haddad, MD, MSc, FRCSC
Chief of Professional Staff