



PICC EXCELLENCE NEWS

JANUARY 2024

Thank you for **30 years** of excellence!

In 1994, Dr. Nancy Moureau had a vision to create high quality educational resources for vascular access training. She founded PICC Excellence to provide a selection of self-study courses, instructor training materials and in-person workshops. Thirty years later, we're still going strong with more than 80 online courses and in-person workshops across multiple cities. More than 27,000 students have completed more than 100,000 courses.

As we reflect on this remarkable journey, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude. We appreciate you choosing PICC Excellence for your vascular access training needs. Thank you for being a vital part of the PICC Excellence family; we couldn't have done it without you.



January 25: IV Nurse Day

We love an excuse to celebrate our clinicians, and IV Nurse Day is no exception.

Congratulations!

Ethan Walker, LPN, who has received the first IV Therapy Mastery Certificate and Jon Bell, MSN, RN, VA-BC, CEN who has received the first UGPIV Therapy Mastery Certificate!

Keep reading to learn how you can get started on the demonstrations and assessments you need to join their ranks.

More Information About IV Therapy Mastery Certificate

More Information About UGPIV Mastery Certificate



Jon Bell

In addition to receiving the first UGPIV Therapy Mastery Certificate, Jon has also completed the Instructor Mastery Training Workshop and will be added as one of PICC Excellence's UGPIV Mastery Instructors!



Ethan Walker

Ethan is the first recipient of the IV Therapy Mastery Certificate and works at a hospital in South Carolina.

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 this spring for clinicians to complete an in-person demonstration and skills assessment. The IV Therapy Workshop includes access to the complete IV Therapy Mastery

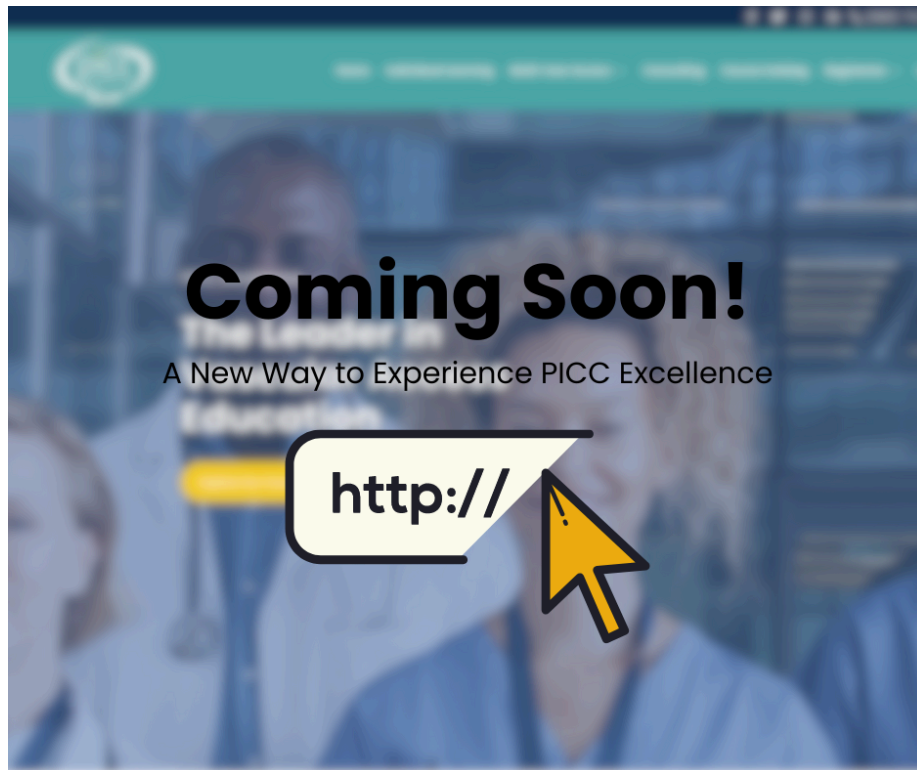
course bundle for one year, and the UGPIV Workshop includes access to the [UGPIV Mastery Toolbox](#).

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: [March 18](#) and [May 06](#)

New PICC Excellence website coming soon!



We've been working hard to improve the user experience of the PICC Excellence website to better serve our clients. We've taken your feedback and used it to create a new look that we think you'll love! The new site will be launching soon. Stay tuned!!

Learn by shadowing top vascular access teams!

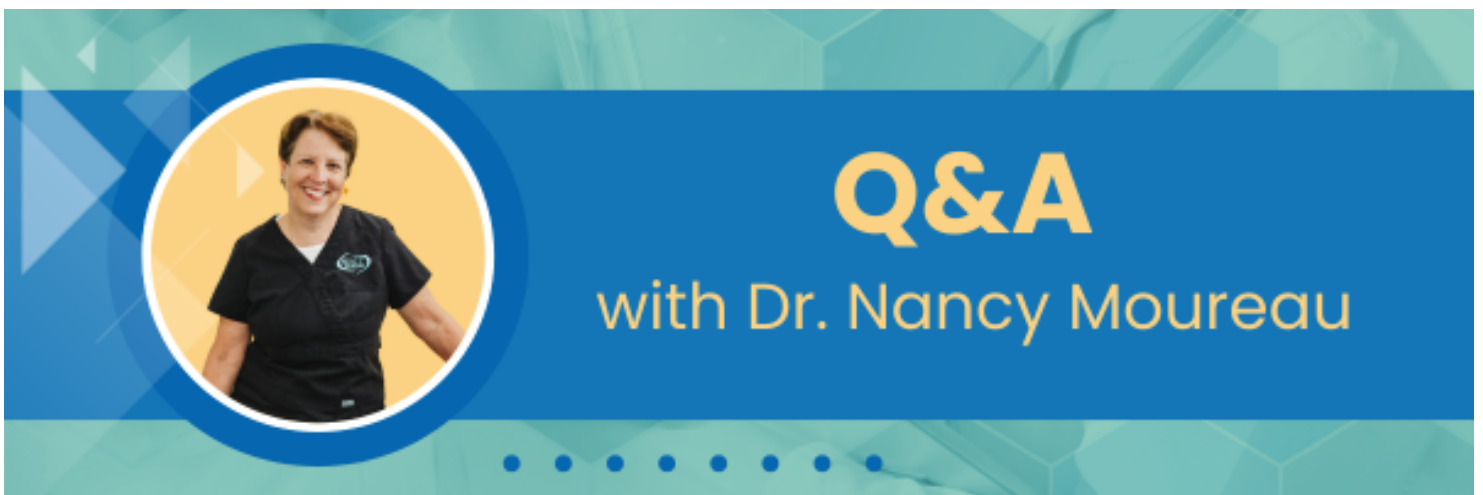


Precepted Training Opportunities in Tacoma, Washington *Pediatric PICC, Midline and UGPIV Placement*

Rachael from Wisconsin learned so much by shadowing the vascular access team in Tacoma. This shadowing experience focuses on training for pediatric PICC, midline and UGPIV insertions and attendees have the opportunity 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



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 subcutaneously implanted 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, such as heparin induced thrombocytopenia (HIT). In addition, 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 as 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 causing 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 the frequency of port flushing for monthly, every other month, or even every three months to maintain port function without resulting in 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 being used for infusions, and implement saline only flushing following any infusion or blood sampling. Some hospitals have eliminated heparin for day-to-day use and only instill heparin for ports when the patient is discharged.

In conclusion, saline alone for flushing to maintain patency has been shown to be non-inferior to both heparin and saline. Saline only flushing and locking is commonly 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.

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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 March 11-12, 2024

Join us for two days of intensive 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 for March 11-12, 2024

2024 Dates

[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

[Leave a Review](#)

