



The latest from the leader in vascular access education

PICC Excellence Newsletter February 2026



A New Year of Learning and Care ❤️

As we settle into the new year, February offers a moment to reflect on what matters most, caring for patients, supporting one another, and continuing to grow in practice. At [PICC Excellence](#), we're excited to continue supporting clinicians and teams with education grounded in evidence, experience, and real-world application.

Thank you for starting another year with us. We look forward to helping you build confidence, expand knowledge, and achieve success in vascular access care.

Featured Course: Introduction to Central Venous Access Devices

The new release of [Introduction to Central Venous Access Devices](#) course provides a strong foundation for clinicians at every stage of practice.

This program introduces central venous catheters with content covering anatomy, patient assessment, indications and contraindications, laboratory considerations, patient positioning, and preparation for insertion.

Imaging and procedural videos support understanding before advancing to insertion-focused training, making this course ideal for beginners and experienced clinicians looking to refresh best practices.

[Enroll Now](#)



Q&A with Dr. Nancy Moureau



Dr. Nancy Moureau offers counsel to hundreds of practitioners around the world. Each month we share a question from a colleague, which she answers pulling from her decades of experience in the field. If you have a question for Dr. Moureau, email it to info@piccexcellence.com.

QUESTION

How do mid-thigh femoral catheter insertions differ from PICC insertions?

ANSWER

Peripherally inserted central catheters (PICCs) and mid-thigh femoral catheters differ because they are designed to address distinct anatomic and clinical needs. PICCs are optimized for access through superficial, low-mobility upper-arm veins and are selected to support long-term upper-extremity vessel preservation, predictable securement, and lower overall procedural risk when arm veins are available. Their insertion strategy emphasizes careful vein selection, minimizing catheter-to-vein ratio, and precise tip placement in the lower superior vena cava or cavo-atrial junction, typically using ECG-based navigation.

In contrast, mid-thigh femoral catheters are reserved for situations in which upper-extremity or thoracic access is not appropriate, such as venous depletion, central venous obstruction, or severe contractures, and intentionally target the superficial or distal common femoral vein at the mid-thigh rather than the groin.

Because femoral anatomy carries different risks, the insertion approach for mid-thigh femoral catheters requires more deliberate ultrasound assessment, longer catheter lengths, and intentional exit-site planning. Femoral placement demands confirmation of a straight pathway to the inferior vena cava, sufficient vein caliber for longer dwell, and catheter length discipline to avoid iliac vein termination, which behaves physiologically as peripheral access and increases complication risk. Tunneling or extended subcutaneous routing is often necessary to relocate the exit site away from the groin and reduce contamination, friction, and dislodgement.

In essence, PICCs prioritize long-term upper-extremity preservation under routine conditions, while mid-thigh femoral catheters function as a problem-solving strategy that provides safe, reliable access when traditional upper-body routes are exhausted or contraindicated. As a result, the insertion process, assessment criteria, and exit-site strategy differ intentionally between the two devices.

Workshop Opportunities in the Spring

Adult or Pediatric PICC/Ultrasound Workshops

Hands-on, instructor-led 2–5 day workshops designed to build confidence in PICC insertion and ultrasound techniques. Choose a focused 2-day format or a full 5-day precepted experience for deeper skill development.

 April 20–21, 2026 | Orlando, FL | [Register](#)

 May 14–15, 2026 | Atlanta, GA | [Register](#)

 5-day Rolling Enrollment | Lewiston, ME | [Register](#)

 5-day Rolling Pediatric Enrollment | Tacoma, WA | [Register](#)

Ultrasound Mastery Workshop

Hands-on training focused on vessel assessment, image interpretation, and needling techniques to improve accuracy and confidence in vascular access.

 March 12, 2026 | Walterboro, SC | AHEC sponsored | Call 843-782-5052

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