

THE DECISION

Should your external central line come out now, or stay in for now?

Your care team considers whether removing the line is medically reasonable. This page shows what may change if the line comes out or stays in. Next, you'll think about what matters most to you.


WHO THIS IS FOR
 Patients, caregivers, and families thinking about removing a Hickman, Broviac, or PICC.


WHAT THIS TOOL HELPS YOU DO
 Learn what may change if the line comes out or stays in, then think about what matters most to you.


WHAT YOUR CARE TEAM HELPS DECIDE
 Whether the line is still needed and whether removing it is medically reasonable.


DECIDING TOGETHER
 Your care team brings medical knowledge. You bring your experience, goals, and concerns. Together, we will decide which option fits best.

**This tool supports a conversation. It does not replace medical advice from your care team.*

Is the line still needed?

Before the line can come out, your care team considers:

Treatment	IV medicines, fluids, nutrition, blood, or platelets
Monitoring	Frequent blood draws
Looking ahead	Your recovery and whether more treatment is needed
Access later	How difficult it would be to place another IV or central line
Other access	Whether a port or another type of IV access will remain

What may change?

Use these points to compare the two options with your care team before answering the questions on the back.

 If the line comes out	 If the line stays
Less line care: No more flushing, dressing changes, supplies, or protecting the line	Line care continues: Flushing, dressing changes, supplies, and protection are still needed
More freedom: Bathing and swimming may be easier after the site heals and your care team says it is safe	Some limits continue: Bathing and swimming may remain restricted
Different access may be needed: Blood tests or IV medicines may require needle sticks, another IV, or use of a port if you have one	This line remains available: This line can be used for blood tests, medicines, fluids, nutrition, blood, or platelets
Risk from this line ends: The ongoing risk of infection or blood clot related to this line ends	Risk from this line continues: Infection or blood clot related to this line remains possible
Mindset: Taking the line out may feel like progress	Mindset: Keeping the line for now may feel reassuring

What matters most

For each topic, mark the statement that fits best right now. Choose “Both fit about the same” when neither stands out. There are no right or wrong answers. You may not know all of the answers and that is okay. This tool is only meant to start a conversation with your care team.

Whose perspective are you sharing?



MY OWN

I am the patient



OURS TOGETHER

We are answering together



SOMEONE I CARE FOR

I am answering on their behalf

1. Bathing, swimming, and daily life

- ☐ I want bathing, swimming, and other activities to be easier.
- ☐ I am okay waiting longer for some activities if the line stays in.
- ☐ Both fit about the same.

2. Line care

- ☐ I want to be done with line flushing and dressing changes.
- ☐ I can keep doing line flushing and dressing changes for now.
- ☐ Both fit about the same.

3. Needle sticks

- ☐ I am okay with more needle sticks if the line comes out.
- ☐ I want fewer needle sticks, even if the line stays in longer.
- ☐ Both fit about the same.

4. Risks from this line and keeping it available

- ☐ I want to lower the chance of infection or blood clots from this line.
- ☐ I want to keep this line available for treatments and blood tests.
- ☐ Both fit about the same.

5. How it feels

- ☐ Having the line out would feel like moving forward.
- ☐ Keeping the line would feel more reassuring for now.
- ☐ Both fit about the same.

Which way are you leaning now?

- ☐ Leaning toward taking the line out.
- ☐ Learning toward keeping the line in for now.
- ☐ Not sure yet.

Doctor's Notes