



A shared language for vascular access devices

Nomenclature Via Integrated Global Advancements in Terminology Efficiencies
A concise reference for neonatal, pediatric, and adult vascular-access nomenclature

FOUNDATIONAL RULE

Classify by the catheter-tip location

CVAD (central venous access device) = tip in the superior vena cava (SVC), right atrium (RA), or inferior vena cava (IVC).
A device intended to be central but with a tip outside those vessels is classified as peripheral. “CVC” should not be used as a synonym for CICC: it is a generic synonym for CVAD.

The language shift

USE PRECISE TERMS

SPC • LPC • MC • PICC • CICC • FICC • TIVAD
Specify the access route, tip location, and tunnel/cuff status.

AVOID AMBIGUITY

“CVC” for CICC • “PIVC” for SPC
“Port-a-cath™” is a brand name; use TIVAD (or port).

PEDIATRIC + ADULT NOMENCLATURE

PVAD + CVAD

Peripheral venous access devices (PVADs)

Classify peripheral devices by length. “Midline” is not a catch-all for every peripheral catheter longer than 6 cm.

SPC Short peripheral catheter

Length <6 cm
Usually inserted in the forearm

Do not use PIVC when you mean SPC:
PIVC is a synonym for PVAD, not one device.

LPC Long peripheral catheter

Also: mini-midline / short midline

Length 6-15 cm
Forearm or arm; tip in forearm or upper-arm veins

Superficial/deep veins; direct or US-guided puncture.

MC Midline catheter

Also: midclavicular catheter

Length >15 cm
Deep upper-arm vein; US-guided
Tip in axillary or subclavian vein
May be tunneled / subcutaneously anchored.

Central venous access devices (CVADs)

All central catheters below require a tip in SVC, RA, or IVC. Insertion definitions distinguish the device names.

PICC Peripherally inserted central catheter

US-guided deep arm vein:
basilic, brachial, brachial axillary tract,
or cephalic vein in the arm.

TIVAD Totally implantable venous access device (port)

Brachial/PICC-port (arm port); chest/CICC-port;
or femoral/FICC-port.

CICC Centrally inserted central catheter

US-guided supra- or infra-clavicular vein:
internal jugular, brachiocephalic, subclavian,
deep external jugular, thoracic cephalic/axillary.

TUNNEL STATUS Apply to any CICC, PICC, or FICC

Tc = tunneled, cuffed
Tnc = tunneled, non-cuffed

FICC Femorally inserted central catheter

US-guided lower-limb vein:
common femoral, superficial femoral,
or saphenous vein.

WRITE IT FULLY

device + caliber + lumens + material +
length + injectability + special purpose.

ARTERIAL ACCESS DEVICES

ALL POPULATIONS

IAC Intra-arterial catheter

Name it by the artery cannulated: femoral, radial, umbilical, dorsalis pedis, posterior tibial, or ulnar artery.
Pulmonary artery catheters (PAC) are considered separately.

NEONATAL NOMENCLATURE

DISTINCT CLASSIFICATION

Neonatal categories cannot simply inherit pediatric/adult cut-offs. ECC/n-PICC is not the same device as the PICC used in children/adults.

NEONATAL PVAD

n-SPC Neonatal short peripheral catheter: standard length <2 cm
n-LPC Neonatal long peripheral catheter: 2-6 cm
Tip located in the veins of the arm or leg.

WHY ECC IS NOT THE ADULT/PEDIATRIC PICC

ECC/n-PICC: 1-2.7 Fr; direct puncture of visible superficial limb/scalp veins; typical duration 1-2 weeks.
PICC (child/adult): 3-6 Fr; US-guided arm-vein access; power injectable; typical duration months.

NEONATAL CVAD

UVC Umbilical venous catheter: tip at IVC-RA junction
ECC / n-PICC Epicutaneo-cava catheter / neonatal PICC
SVC route: lower SVC, SVC-RA junction, or upper RA.
IVC route: subdiaphragmatic IVC or IVC-RA junction.

CICC US-guided supra-clavicular deep vein (mainly IJV/BCV);
tip at SVC-RA junction or upper RA.

FICC US-guided common femoral vein; tip in subdiaphragmatic
IVC or at IVC-RA junction. Tc/Tnc prefixes apply to CICC/FICC.