Most PICCs are marked off in cm to make measuring easier. NB not all manufacturers of PICCs measure in the same way we do, so ignore any numbers you see on the line and just measure the length of the THIN bit in centimetres.

Why is the PICC measurement important?
When the PICC is inserted, the internal tip should be placed the superior vena cava. If the external measurement increases after this time, it may be that the tip of the PICC has moved into a smaller vein which increases the risk of thrombosis. (Caers, ers, J et al. Catheter tip position as a risk factor for thrombosis associated with the use of subcutaneous infusion ports. Support Care Cancer (2005) 13:325–331)

What exactly are we supposed to measure?
Always measure the THINNEST bit of the line.

Patients WITH Securacath
Measure between the hub and the Securacath.

Patients WITHOUT Securacath
Measure the thin part of the line.

Most PICCs are marked off in cm to make measuring easier. NB not all manufacturers of PICCs measure in the same way we do, so ignore any numbers you see on the line and just measure the length of the THIN bit in centimetres.

How do I know what the measurement should be?
The baseline measurement and how far it can increase by should be documented:

- On CDR under “View Docs” if inserted by the PICC Team
- On CDR under imaging results if inserted in Interventional Radiology
- In the notes if inserted by an Anaesthetic team.

If in doubt, contact the team who inserted the line.

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