



# CENTRAL VENOUS LINE - COMPLICATIONS



## Escambia County, Florida - ALS/BLS Medical Protocol

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Central venous lines are indicated for administration of medications, delivery of chemotherapy, nutritional support, infusion of blood products, and blood draws.

Types of central venous lines include: Broviac/Hickman, Port-a-cath, Med-a-port, and percutaneous intravenous catheters (PIC).

Central venous line emergencies include: catheter coming completely out, bleeding at the site, catheter broken in half, blood embolus, thrombus, air embolus, and internal bleeding. Signs of blood embolus, thrombus, air embolus, and internal bleeding:

1. Chest pain.
2. Cyanosis.
3. Dyspnea.
4. Shock.

### Supportive Care

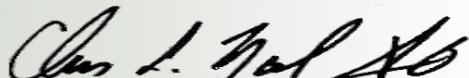
1. [Medical Supportive Care Protocol](#).
2. If catheter is completely out, apply direct pressure to site.
3. If there is bleeding at the site, apply direct pressure.
4. If catheter is broken in half, secure end of remaining tube with tape and / or hemostat.
5. If suspected blood embolus, thrombus, or internal bleeding: stop infusion by roller clamping of line.
6. If suspected air embolism, stop infusion by roller clamping of line and place patient on left side.
7. Consider need for other protocols - [Adult Respiratory Emergencies](#).



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## ALS Level 1

None

## ALS Level 2 (*Physician Authorization Required*)

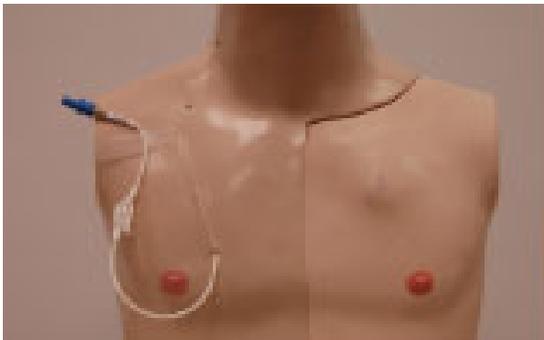
None



PICC Line



PICC Line



Central Line



Dialysis Catheter



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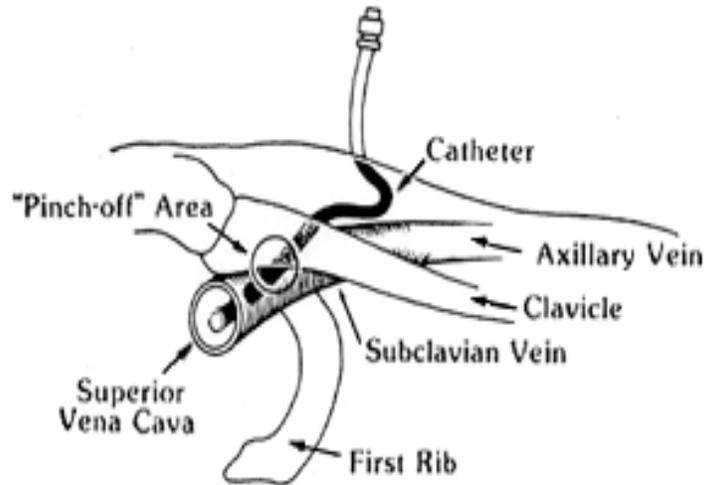
  
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Double Lumen Port-Small



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