Do you know your central lines?

Central – Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) – A single or double lumen central venous catheter inserted via a peripheral vein – the tip terminates in the superior vena cava, which places it into the category of a central line. Used to infuse vesicant or irritating drugs or hyperosmolar solutions.

Central – Tunneled Central Venous Catheter – A single, double or triple lumen device, surgically tunneled through subcutaneous tissue to an exit site generally on the chest or abdominal wall. The tip rests in the vena cava. A cuff that lies in the subcutaneous tunnel, around which fibrous tissue grows, helps to secure the device. Should be used for patients requiring long-term vascular access greater than 6 months.

Central – Percutaneous Non-Tunneled Catheter – A catheter, often with multiple lumens, inserted percutaneously through the subclavian, jugular or femoral vein with tip dwelling in the superior vena cava. Recommended for short-term access to the central circulation in critical situations, or when peripheral access is inadequate or inappropriate.

Central – Implanted Port – An implanted reservoir generally placed in the chest or arm, attached to a catheter with tip position in the central vasculature. Infusate is delivered to the reservoir via an external non-coring needle and extension tubing. Should be used for patients requiring long-term vascular access.