

Equipment You May See in the Hospital

When you are in the hospital, it's normal to have tubes and wires attached to your body. They help the staff check your vital signs, take blood, give medications and provide nutrients. The following is a brief description of some of these tubes and what you and your family can expect.

Arterial Line (art line or a-line)	A thin tube (catheter) inserted into an artery to monitor blood pressure and obtain blood for lab tests.
Heart Monitor	A device that continually monitors heart activity, and heart rhythm.
Central Line	An IV placed into a large vein in the neck, chest or sometimes groin. In the arm, this is called a PICC line (see definition for PICC below).
Dobhoff Tube	A small flexible tube that is passed through the nose and into the stomach. It is used for giving medication or nutrition when swallowing is a problem. It is smaller and more comfortable than the Nasogastric Tube.
Feeding Tube, Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG) or G-Tube	A tube that's placed into your stomach through your abdomen. It's used to supply nutrition when you have trouble eating.

Nasogastric Tube (NG)	A narrow tube that is passed through the nose and into the stomach for medication, nutrition or to rest the stomach.
PICC (Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter)	An IV that carries fluid and medicine into the body through a vein in the upper arm.
Sequential Compression Device (SCD)	Sleeves wrapped around the legs that inflate and deflate with air to improve blood flow in the legs to prevent a blood clot.
Ventilator	A machine that moves air in and out of the lungs to assist you if you need extra support, or you are unable to breathe on your own.
Ventriculostomy	A device that is placed in the ventricle of the brain to drain fluid and measure pressure in the brain. The brain ventricles are a set of 4 connected cavities that produce special fluid that acts as a cushion or buffer for the brain.

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