

1. What are the options for treating children with a bone infection?

(also called osteomyelitis)

After getting medicine through an intravenous line (IV) while in the hospital (i.e. <7 days), your child could.....

- A. Go home and take **medicine by mouth** for a total of 4–6 weeks

OR

- B. Get a peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC), you would learn how to use and care for it, then go home and give **IV medicine by PICC line** for a total of 4–6 weeks

2. Issues you and your doctor may discuss:

- How your child is responding to medicine *(e.g. fever, symptoms)*
- The bacteria causing the infection, if known
- What is involved in giving your child medicine by mouth at home? *(e.g. liquid vs. pill, how often)*
- What is involved in getting a PICC line?
- What is involved in caring for a PICC line at home?
- What is involved in giving medicine through a PICC line at home?
- Your preferences for treatment

3. What is known about the risk of a bone infection that fails to get better after 4–6 weeks?

(also called chronic osteomyelitis)

Medicine by mouth

- Less than 5% risk*

Medicine by PICC line

- Less than 5% risk*

**No significant risk difference between these treatment options*

4. What are the potential risks and complications?

Medicine by mouth

- Allergic reaction
- Child spits it up

Medicine by PICC line

- Allergic reaction
- Line stops working *(e.g. it comes out or clogs)*
- Bacteria gets into blood through the line and causes another infection
- Skin gets infected where the line enters skin
- At CCHMC, 15-20% of PICC lines for bone infections had one of these problems last year

5. Assessment

- A. Do you know enough about the benefits and side effects of each option? Y / N
- B. Do you have enough support and advice from others to make a choice? Y / N
- C. Do you feel relatively sure about the best choice for your son/daughter? Y / N

6. What do you want to do now?

- Go home and take medicine by mouth for a total of 4-6 weeks
- Get a peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC), learn how to use and care for it, then go home and give medicine for a total of 4-6 weeks
- Not sure, prefer to decide later or need more help choosing

7. How could we have engaged you and your family in the decision more successfully?