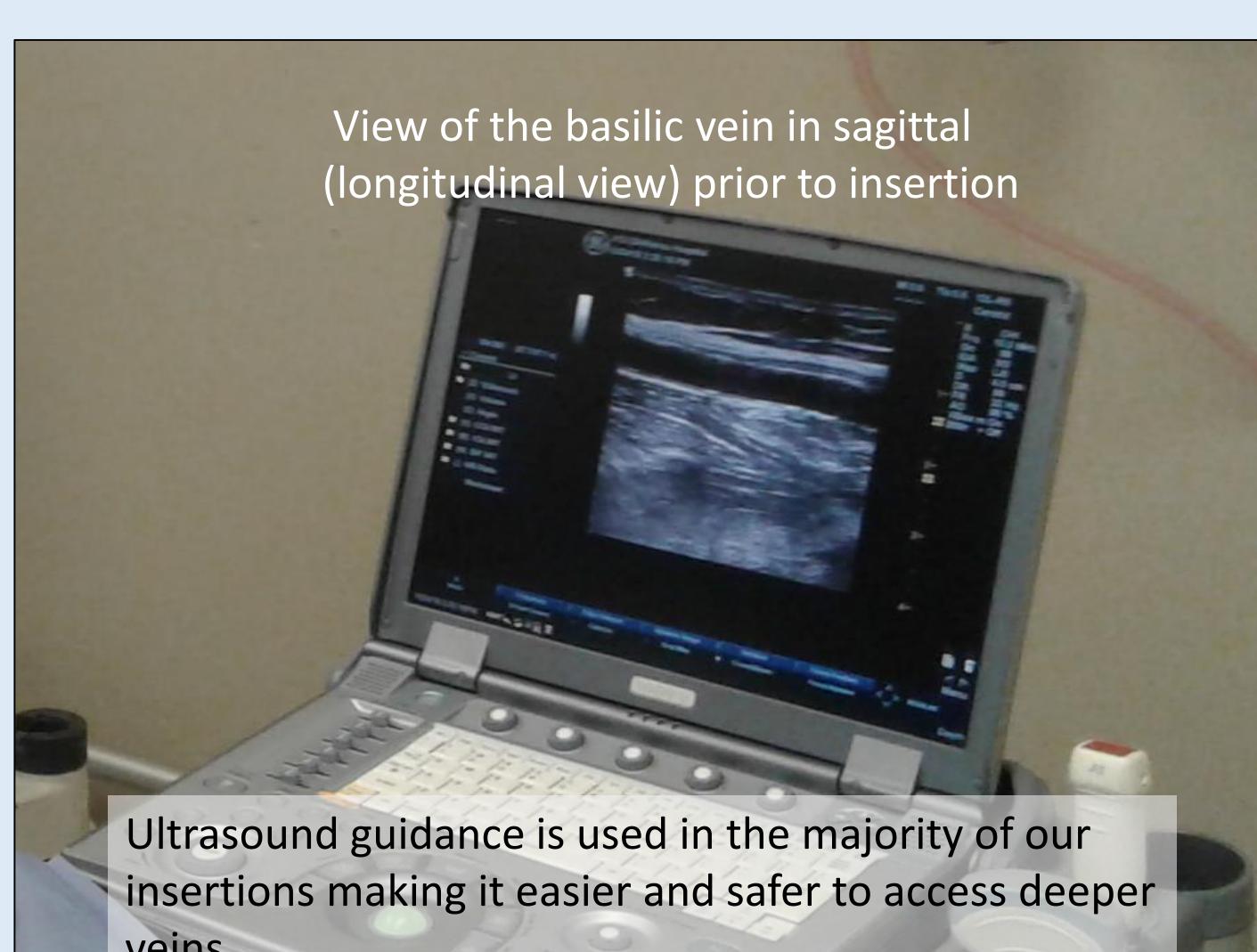


# Nurse Led Vascular Access Service- Wairau Hospital

## Providing insertion of Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters (PICCS), Midlines and Ultrasound Guided Peripheral Lines

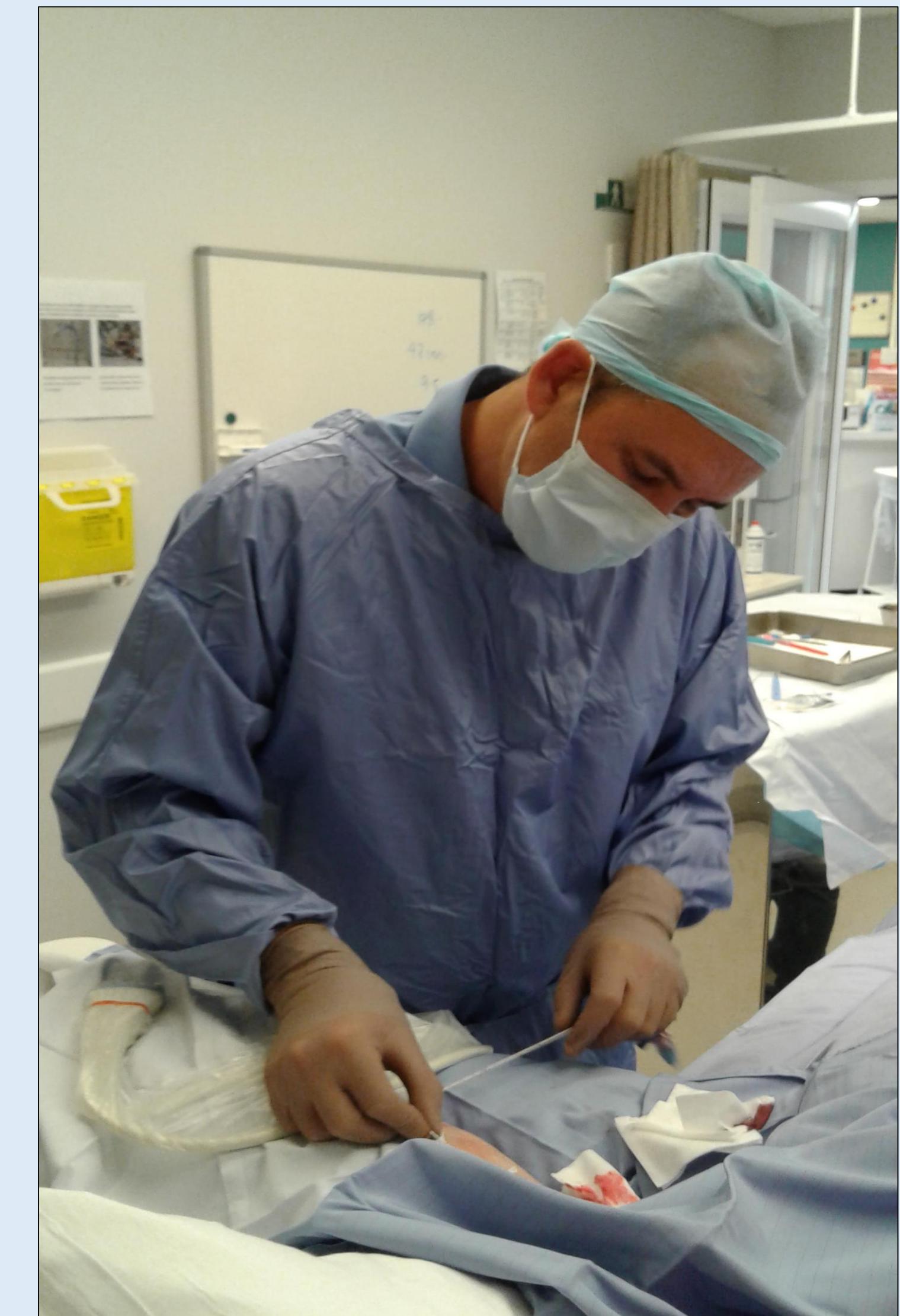


### Who Benefits from the service?

The insertion of Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters (PICCs) provides long term venous access of up to one year for the administration of medication, intravenous fluids and parenteral nutrition into the superior vena cava. These preparations are often vesicant in nature. By using a PICC to infuse into a central vein, blood flow and dilution minimise any effects these medications may have on the vascular system.

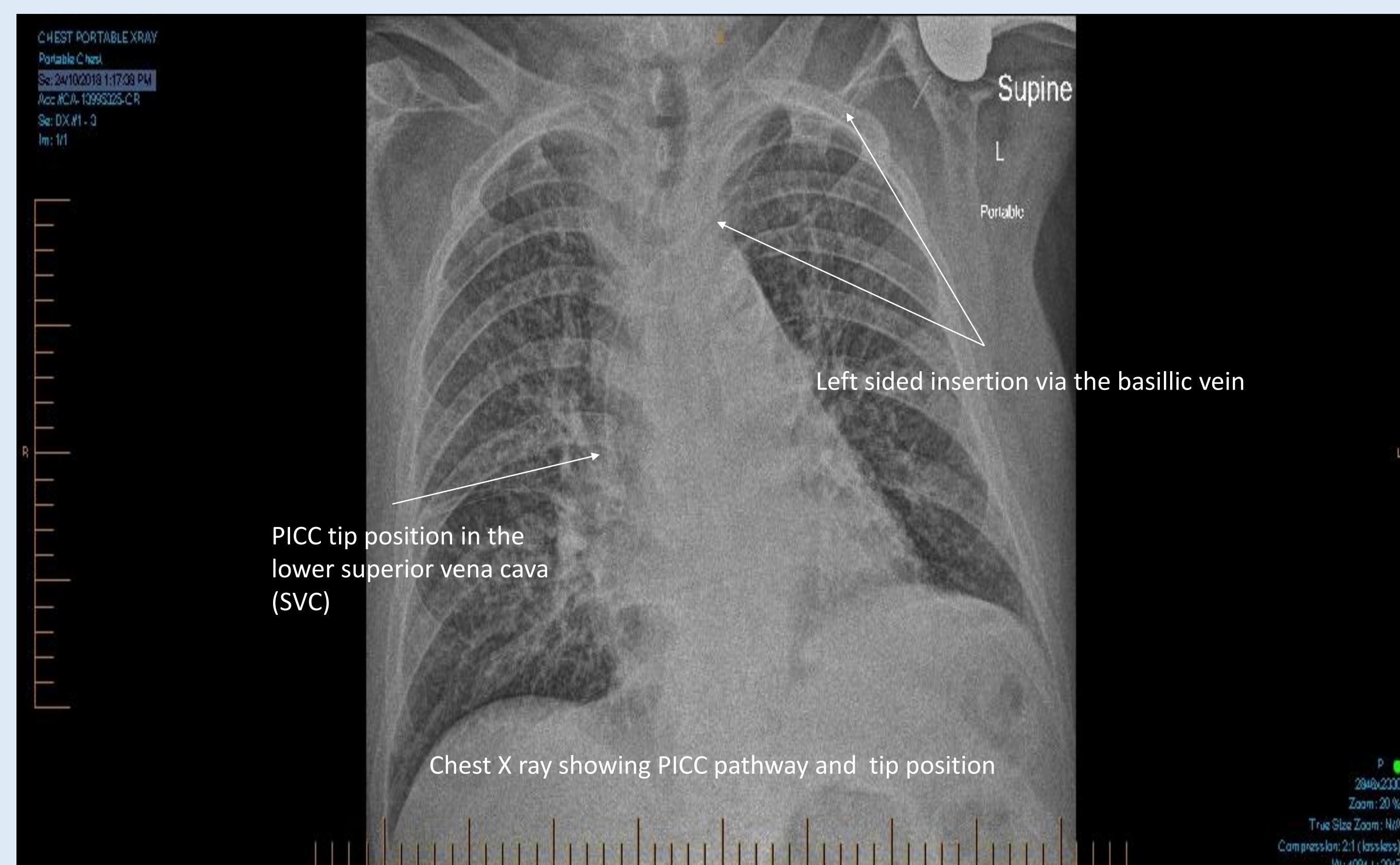
In addition PICC's may be beneficial for patients who require multiple intravenous therapies over a period of time, yet have difficult to access veins. A PICC insertion may prevent multiple, and often futile attempts, to find venous access.

At Wairau PICC insertion is performed on a range of patients, from those who are acutely unwell to elective patients who need long term therapy. In many cases it allows patients to be discharged home for IV therapy rather than remaining in hospital. The Nurse led service ensures that anaesthetists are not required to place the lines, meaning that theatre schedules are not disrupted.



A Typical PICC. All the lines used are suitable for CT scan pressure injection. They range in size from 40 -55 cm long, but can be trimmed to be shorter if needed.

**For short term vascular access.** The team provides ultrasound guided midlines or peripheral intravenous lines. This can be as a planned procedure or acutely. For many patients who attend for CT scans, planned infusions or chemotherapy accessing their veins can be challenging. The Radiology, Day stay and Oncology Departments at Wairau have systems which flag patients who have had problems when being cannulated. They will refer to the vascular access service in advance to ensure that patients can have lines placed prior to a planned procedure or therapy. This ensures that patients don't have multiple attempts to access veins, causing distress and delaying their treatment. The team will also discuss longer term options, such as midlines or PICCs, with patients if it is suitable for their situation.



### Continuing Support

The Vascular access service also provides advice on management and troubleshooting of central venous access devices, including PICCs, portacaths, central lines, vascaths and hickman lines. As part of this the team will perform line checks, catheter unblocking, line removals/re-insertion or referrals to appropriate clinicians for ongoing management. This gives a fast response service at Wairau, accessible to all clinical staff in the hospital or community, freeing up resources in the Emergency Department and operating theatre.

### Facts and figures

- Began in 2007
- Assessed & credentialed by CDHB in 2012
- 2 members of the team who carry out insertions in addition to their usual duties
- On average 50-60 PICC insertions per year
- 100 - 200 Ultrasound guided Peripheral IV insertions per year
- A low complication rate with greater than 98% success rate for first time placement of PICCs and midlines
- 0% rate of insertion related bacterial infections
- Greater than 95% of insertions completed on the day of referral
- 0% disruption to operating theatre schedules