

# NICA ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

## Frequently Asked Questions

### WHAT TYPES OF INFUSION CENTERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

- **Freestanding** - Provides infusion services in a clinical setting that does not provide unrelated stand-alone services. May also be known as an Ambulatory Infusion Center (AIC).
- **Office-Based** - Provides infusion services as an ancillary service to office visits at an independently owned and operated specialty group or practice.
- **Pharmacy-Based** - Provides infusion services in a clinical setting that is pharmacy-based or owned, typically part of a company that operates as a home infusion provider.
- **Hospital-Based** - Provides infusion services in an outpatient clinical setting and is owned or operated by a hospital or institution.



### WHO IS NICA?

The National Infusion Center Association (NICA) is a nonprofit trade association dedicated to representing the interests of ambulatory care settings where provider-administered biologics and specialty medications are prepared and administered.



### WHO DO THE NICA ACCREDITATION STANDARDS APPLY TO?

Although initially developed for ambulatory infusion centers with licensed independent practitioners, the NICA Standards pertain to all outpatient care settings where patients and/or consumers receive non-hazardous provider-administered medications via parenteral (e.g., intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, or intradermal) routes.



### HOW ARE THE STANDARDS DEVELOPED?

Standards are developed using a diversity of stakeholder perspectives in an externally validated, rigorous peer-review process with representation and input from infusion delivery channel stakeholders including multidisciplinary clinicians, infusion center providers, membership associations, consumers, and general interest groups.



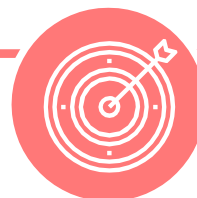
### HOW IS THE INTEGRITY OF THE STANDARDS PROTECTED?

NICA is committed to a balanced, open, unbiased, and transparent standards development process, as evidenced by its designation by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as an ANSI-Accredited Standards Developer. This voluntary third-party accreditation affirms that the NICA Standards have been developed through a validated consensus-based process with equitable opportunities for all stakeholders to meaningfully contribute.



### WHAT ARE THE ACCREDITATION PROGRAM OBJECTIVES?

- Support infusion provider efforts to implement best practices
- Reduce disparities in care quality among infusion care settings
- Provide the basis for regulatory and legislative endeavors that seek to ensure facilities preparing and administering parenteral medications do so in a safe, consistent, and effective manner in accordance with evidence-based standards of care.





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### IS NICA MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR OR PARTICIPATE IN THE ACCREDITATION PROGRAM?

No. NICA Provider Membership is not required to participate in the Accreditation Program. Provider Membership has no influence on the accreditation application, status, or length of time required to navigate the program.

### HOW DOES NICA ENSURE THE PROGRAM IS FAIR, UNBIASED, AND FREE OF CONFLICTING INTEREST?



- Accreditation Standards are applied in an established and consistent manner to all participant organizations.
- The accreditation process is designed to be transparent and collaborative.
- Assurance of a fair process through the development of conflict of interest and disclosure policies, structured assessor training and competency, maintenance of its ANSI accreditation, and by encouraging feedback at all levels throughout the accreditation process.



### WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS?

- All participants undergo a comprehensive assessment that combines internal and external review and validation.
- Submission of a self-evaluation analyzing the current adherence level with the Standards.
- Assessment activities including facility tours, interviews, clinical observations, review of policy and procedures, quality activities, patient charts, and personnel files.
- Final determination issued by the accreditation council, comprised of impartial parties qualified to review assessor findings



### WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NICA STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION?

- NICA Standards reflect current best practices, laws, regulations, expert consensus, and industry guidelines developed through a trusted and transparent drafting process involving representation from all relevant stakeholders
- Accreditation determines an organization's technical competence and is used to verify compliance with the Standards.

### HAS NICA RECEIVED DEEMING AUTHORITY FROM CMS?

The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) does not currently have an established program category for infusion centers.



### WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK MY ACCREDITATION BODY?

- How are their standards developed?
- Who is involved in development?
- How are the standards validated?
- Who oversees their work and accredits them?
- How are the accreditation determinations made?

