2020-2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
JANUARY

- Launch of the Infusion Confusion Community forum - an online support community for providers and patients to collaborate and get their questions answered by expert infusion industry moderators
- Attended and exhibited at the 2020 Crohn’s & Colitis Congress
- Directed a NICA Patient Testimonials video to give a voice to patients and demonstrate the NICA mission in video format
- Created a one pager on incorporating injectables into infusion practices
- Co-branded a Just Breathe Box with the Just Breathe Box team. The box is a care package for infusion patients to enjoy before, during, and after infusion treatments.
- Created the BCBS-TN Specialty Pharmacy Mandate Response Team
  - Provided patients and providers with grassroots letters to send to BCBS-TN
  - Co-authored a letter with NORM to BCBS-TN
  - Created a foundation of materials to use in a general Payor Response Toolkit
- Began development of second edition of Standards-- expanded and reorganized content
- Monthly calls with four sub-committees targeting Partnership, Standards, Advocacy, and Education.
- Recorded podcast for strategic partner (WelInfuse)
- Began market integration efforts for Standards program-- contacted all state boards of nursing and had call with NCSBN to garner support
- Filmed NICA promotional video to highlight importance and differentiation of office based infusion to hospital based infusions.
- Nyquist was keynote speaker at the Integrated Medical Systems’ National Sales Meeting
- Joint letter with NORM to Highmark re: Specialty Pharmacy Mandates
- Engaged with Avalere to conduct an analysis of cost-disparity between undermanaged RA patients and effectively managed Rheumatoid Arthritis patients.

FEBRUARY

- Translation of FAQs and Health Insurance Glossary into Spanish to serve native Spanish speaking community
- Introduced the #KaiteysCorner campaign on social media where our Director of Quality and Standards (cont. on next page)
and resident clinical expert, Kaitey Morgan, answers FAQs regarding best practices in infusion clinics

- Wrote an article for INS titled “BCBSTN: A Case Study For Trends in the Commercial Insurance Landscape”
- Had a video created for our “Infusion 101” module and our “Medicare and Medicaid 101” module
- Created a fully redesigned and reimagined NICA Welcome Packet for new provider members
- Testified at the Wisconsin Assembly Health Committee hearing on AB 114 (PBM transparency, licensure, and regulation, step therapy, and non-medical switching)
- Submitted a memorandum of support & called committee offices for WI AB 114
- Attended Arizona Step Therapy Coalition Hill Day
- Created Infusion Guide for MS Patients one-pager in conjunction with the National MS Society and the Just Breathe Box
- Surveys
  - What are YOU looking forward to at #NICA2020?
    https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G9R7Y9P
- Met with CuraScript SD Leadership Team in Orlando

MARCH

- Attended the Digestive Diseases National Coalition (DDNC)’s Health Policy Forum
- Attended DDNC’s hill day in Washington DC to advocate for several bills relating to issues such as step therapy, increased funding for NIH, CDC, and other related agencies, etc
- Attended Massachusetts Step Therapy Coalition Advocacy Day at State House
- Introduced “Instagram Story Spotlights” on the NICA Instagram account to highlight infusion centers that were/are treating patients safely during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Reached out to infusion centers/clinics/private practices in early hotspot states via phone calls and emails (NY/CA/PA), to see how they were handling possible challenges they were encountering due to COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Compiled lists of infusion centers/clinics/private practices across the US that remained open during the pandemic (March/April).
  - Updated our Infusion Center Locator to include the option for providers to indicate that their offices were temporarily closed or had new hours of operation due to COVID-19.
• Posted the second annual Market Trend Report for purchase by provider members on the NICA provider member resource center (2019 report free for all through June 2020)

• Surveys
  o COVID-19 Infusion Center Survey
    https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/covid-19-ivcs

• Collaboration with Association for Vascular Access (AVA)-- Joined Continuum of Care Special Interest Group; contributed content r/t Outpatient Infusion Centers for AVA resource “Post-Acute Resource Guide”

• Launched NICA COVID-19 Toolkit
  o Guidance and Recommendations
  o FAQ for Patients
  o FAQ for Providers
  o Aggregated other resources to share on our COVID page

• Applied for the Homeland Security Information Network- Critical Infrastructure in the Healthcare and Public Health Sector (accepted in April)

• Began the weekly NICA Virtual Industry Collaborative Calls

• Established relationship with Healthcare Resilience Task Force-- subgroup of Office of Assistant Sec of Preparedness and Response (ASPR)

• Submitted inquiry re: 1135 waiver to allow for temporary suspension of physician (or NPP) supervision requirements for infusion services

• Held discovery calls with three organizations regarding potential strategic partnerships

• Nyquist featured in the Champions of Care podcast hosted by Champion Chairs.

• Began Advocacy Action Toolkit project with AdCom organizations

• NICA co-authored a letter with the National Organization of Rheumatology Managers and the Coalition for State Rheumatology Organizations regarding the addition of provider-administered drugs to the self-administered drug (SAD) list.
NICA 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

• Planned and executed NICA’s inaugural Annual Meeting
• Planned and executed NICA’s first Advocacy Day in conjunction with the meeting
• Secured location for 2020 meeting
• Held the first annual Treatment Adherence Summit, bringing together clinical staff, patients, caregivers, and other industry stakeholders to define “treatment adherence” and to identify and create strategies to reduce the barriers to adherence

HIRING

• Development Program
  o Hired a Development Program Coordinator in September. Primary responsibility was to maintain and build out our Infusion Center Locator. Additional responsibilities have included heading Provider Membership initiatives.
• Hired a new Marketing and Communications Coordinator in November

CONFERENCES

• Attended and exhibited at conferences including:
  o STAR (State of Texas Association of Rheumatologists), INS (Infusion Nurses Society), CMSC (Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers), FSR (Florida Society of Rheumatologists), RNS (Rheumatology Nurses Society), NORM (National Organization of Rheumatology Managers), and IgNS (Immunoglobulin Nurses Society).

RESOURCES

• Minimum Standards
  o Released NICA’s Minimum Standards for In Office Infusion shortly before the inaugural meeting and officially published them to be available to the public in July.
NICA 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- First Market Trend Report released in June
- Starting an Infusion Center: The Federal Regulatory Landscape released in January

INFUSION CENTER LOCATOR

- Planned and implemented updates to make the locator more user friendly and to be a value add to existing and potential Provider Members

COMMUNICATIONS

- Messages from the Director launched
- Partnered with Just Breathe for their subscription boxes
- Patient stories launched
- Contributed a bimonthly advocacy column to INSider, the Infusion Nurses Society's newsletter
- Infusion Center Spotlights launched
- All meeting related social media posts, newsletters, print materials, design, and promo materials successfully put together
- Communicated all advocacy, resource, AdCom, and meeting-related updates via NICA's social media channels (LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube when appropriate) and through Constant Contact e-newsletters.

EDUCATION

- Education modules:
  - Step Therapy Video
  - Infusion Sites of Care Video
  - Non-Medical Switching
  - Treatment Adherence Video
- Best Practice for Referrals one-pager
- Infusion Guide for Gout Patients in collaboration with the Alliance for Gout Awareness
STANDARDS

• Collaborated with several state boards of nursing (including AZ and MO), the Infusion Nurses Society, and AdCom organizations to draft the Minimum Standards of In-Office Infusion.
• Standards were released at NICA 2019

ADVOCACY

• Published an interactive map of all the bills NICA is active on at the state and federal levels
• 2/14/19- Contacted members of the PA House Consumer Affairs Committee to ask the to co-sponsor to support the NMS legislation
• 2/19/19- Non-medical switching day at the Texas State Capitol; met with legislative offices to support current NMS legislation
• 2/27/19- Step Therapy day at the Oklahoma State Capitol; met with legislative offices to support current step therapy legislation
• 3/6/19- Step Therapy day at the Wisconsin State Capitol; met with legislative offices to support current step therapy legislation
• 3/24-25/19- Attended the BMS State Policy Forum in Dallas and presented NICA's state level legislative priorities
• 4/4/19- Registered in support of TX SB 580 during the committee hearing
• 4/16/19- Attended MA Step Therapy Hill Day
• 5/1/19- Registered in support of TX SB 748 during the committee hearing
• 6/25-26/19- Attended the Alliance for Transparent and Affordable Prescriptions
• July 2019- Kaska named the chair of the TX Coalition for Stable Patients
• 7/22/19- Attended an interim strategy meeting with TX Rep Lambert
• 7/30/19- Attended the Oklahoma Step Therapy bill signing
• 8/13/19- Wisconsin hill day to support PBM transparency bill
• 9/10/19- Attended the Massachusetts Fail First Coalition in-person meeting in Boston, MA.
NICA 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• 10/3-4/19- Attended the Alliance for Gout Awareness's stakeholder meeting in Washington DC
• 10/11/19- Attended and participated in networking event at the Texas A&M School of Public Health Networking Fair
• 10/29-31/19- Attended the BIO Patient Advocacy Summit in Washington DC
• 11/19/19- Attended the Biologics Prescribers Collaborative's Making Biosimilars Work Patient Advocacy Meeting in Washington DC
• 11/20/19- Attended Janssen's Fall IDEA Advocacy Conference
• Late November 2019- Co-authored a letter to BCBS-TN with NORM in oppositions of their specialty pharmacy mandate
• October-December 2019- Created a survey on the Patient's Opinion of their Insurer
• 12/2/19- Attended in-person TX Coalition of STable Patients Meeting
• 12/10/19- Attended the Medication Adherence: Landscape, Strategies, and Evaluation Methods conference in Washington DC

ACTIVE COALITIONS

• Part B Access for Seniors and Physicians (ASP) Coalition
• California Step Therapy Coalition
• Safe Step Working Group (Federal Step Therapy Coalition)
• Texas Coalition for Stable Patients
• Oklahomans for Step Therapy Reform
• Texas Newborn Screening Task Force
• Wisconsin Step Therapy Coalition
• Partnership to Protect Patient Health
• Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
• Washington State Step Therapy Coalition
• Kansas Coalition for Treatment Access
• Alliance for Transparent and Affordable Prescriptions
• Massachusetts Fail First Coalition
• Alliance for Integrity and Reform of 340B (AIR340B) Coalition
NICA 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• Partnership to Improve Patient Care
• Ohio Step Copay Accumulator Coalition
• Pennsylvanians for Fair Health Coverage
• Alliance for Gout Awareness
• Delaware Step Therapy Coalition
• Connecticut NMS Coalition
• Alliance for Safe Biologic Medications (ASBM)

LETTERS AUTHORED BY NICA

• 2/25/19- Memorandum of support for NY A.2969/S.2849, sent to Health and Insurance Committees
• 2/25/19- Memorandum in support of IA SF 292
• 3/12/19- Memorandum in support of FL HB 1363
• 3/18/19- Memorandum in support of AZ HB 2166
• 3/21/19- Memorandum in support for WA HB 1879
• 4/21/19- Memorandum in support of WI AB 24/SB 26
• 5/14/19- Memorandum of support for HB 105 to Delaware state senators
• 8/19/2019- Joint letter with NORM opposing Humana’s administrative downcoding of biologics
• 10/10/2019- Letter to UHC CSO in opposition of their new NMS policy

SIGN ON LETTERS

• 1/15/19- Washington Step Therapy Coalition, Coalition one-pager in support of step therapy legislation
• 1/15/19- Healthcare Leadership Council, Letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar and Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services regarding concerns with the proposed “Medicare International Price Index Model”.
• 1/25/19- Indiana Stable Patients Coalition, Letter to Indiana Senate Health & Provider Services Committee in support of SB 525
• 2/5/19- Oregon Step Therapy Coalition, Letter to Senate Chair of Healthcare Committee in support of SB 139
NICA 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2/19/19- Patient Protections Working Group, CMS Memo on the Proposed Exchange Rule for 2020
- 3/15/19- AIMED Alliance, Letter to CMO of BCBS-Michigan expressing concerns with NMS of biosimilars for branded infliximab
- 4/2/19- Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, Letter to CMS Administrator Verma urging CMS to immediately publish guidance to plans that lays out, at minimum, the patient safeguards proposed in the Modernizing Part D and Medicare Advantage to Lower Drug Prices and Reduce Out-of-Pocket Expenses proposed rule so that beneficiaries have some protections in 2019.
- 4/5/19- Delaware Step Therapy Coalition, Letter to DE House Committee on Economic Development, Banking, Insurance and Commerce in support of HB 105
- 5/7/19- ASBM, Letter to Acting FDA Commissioner Sharples asking for distinguishable suffixes for biosimilars
- 5/15/2019- AIMED Alliance, Letter to CMO of BCBS Michigan asking BCBS to reconsider their NMS practices
- 5/24/19- Oklahomans for Step Therapy Reform, Letter to OK Federal Legislators asking them to support the federal step therapy bills
- 7/8/19- Partnership to Improve Patient Care (PIPC), Letter to congressional legislators asking for support for several bills
- 7/17/2019-ASP Coalition, Letter to Senate Finance Committee, House Ways & Means Committee, Speaker & Minority Leader House, Senate Minority & Majority Leader expressing concerns with step therapy in Medicare
- 7/17/19-American Academy of Pediatrics, Letter to Jan Schakowsky HOR, Michael Burgess in support of their bill HR 2781
- 7/24/19- National Hispanic Council on Aging, Letter to Senate Finance Committee asking for Medicare Part D reform
- 7/24/2019-ASP Coalition, Letter to Mitch McConnell, Charles Schumer, Chuck Grassley, Ron Wydenin regards to rebates/copay coupons in Medicare Pt B
- Late July 2019 -US Pain Foundation, Letter to N. Sharpless, FDA Acting Commissioner re: Osteoarthritis treatments- fair and timely access to treatments
- 8/20/19-AIMED Alliance, Letter to the Cleveland Clinic to discusses the impact of NMS on Ohio
Healthcare Systems and urges them to discontinue the practice

- Late August- OK Step Therapy Coalition, Letter to Federal delegates re: Asking federal OK reps to support the step therapy bill, HR 2279
- Late August- We Work For Health, Letter to the Texas Congressional Delegation urging leaders in Congress to support H.R. 3584, the Laboratory Access for Beneficiaries (LAB) Act, which would delay the upcoming PAMA reporting period, giving Congress time to correct the process and ensure seniors are protected.
- 9/9/19- AIMED Alliance, Letter to BCBS-Michigan in opposition of new NMS policies
- 9/10/19- WI Step Therapy Coalition, Letter to WI federal congressional delegation urging them to support the federal step therapy legislation
- 9/16/2019- American Academy of Pediatrics, Letter to Senators Reed and Cassidy to support their bill S 2443
- 9/19/19- Delaware Step Therapy Coalition, Letter to Delaware Congressional Leadership asking them to support federal step therapy legislation
- 9/24/19- National Psoriasis Foundation, Letter of patient and provider groups in support of the federal step therapy legislation
- 9/27/19- We Work For Health, Letter to Texas congressional legislation outlining concerns with parts of HR 3
- 9/30/19- AARP New York, Press Release: 36 Patient/Consumer/Doctor Organizations Urge Governor to Sign Bill Stopping Mid-Year Rx Out-of-Pocket Cost Hikes
- 10/18/19- PIPC, Letter to the President of ICER expressing concern with ICER’s use of QALY
- 10/9/19- Academy of Physicians in Clinical Research telling members of Congress that Medicare Changes must prioritize patients
- 10/29/19- Arthritis Foundation, Letter to Chairs of MA Senate and House Committees on Healthcare Financing in support of HB 1853 and SB 1235
- Late October- Alliance for Gout Awareness, CSO of United Healthcare, Letter expressing concern with United’s coverage for gout infusion treatment
- 11/19/19- Pharmacist Society of the State of New York, Letter to NY Governor to sign S 6531 into law
- 12/4/19- ATAP, Letter to MA House Com. on Ways and Means in support of SB 2409
- 12/13/19- PIPC, Letter to MA Health Policy Commission to express concerns with QALY
NICA 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OPERATIONS

• Put together subcommittees for Advocacy, Partnerships, Standards, and Resource/Education
• Toured ICU Medical's Austin plant to learn about the saline industry and subsequently set up a strategic partnership
• Hosted 2 in-person Advisory Committee Meetings: one in February and one in June (before the inaugural meeting)
• Brought on new Board Members

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

• K2 Health Training Solutions
• TANYR Healthcare
• ACHC

MENTIONABLE TRAVEL/EVENTS

• January 2019: Met with GSK leadership in North Carolina
• February 2019: Discussed NICA Standards with Alabama Board of Nursing in February 2019
• February 2019: Attended Texas Healthcare & Biosciences Institute’s Spring Policy Conference & Luminary Dinner in Austin, Texas
  o Met with numerous partners, stakeholders, and legislators
• March 2019: Spoke at an Education Symposium for Autoimmune Communities in Hawaii
• April 2019: Attended the Collaborating for Care in-person meeting in Washington DC
• April 2019: Attended J&J/Janssen's Transparency & Policy Considerations in Washington, DC
  o Meetings with partners, legislators, and staffers.
• April 2019: Attended Asembia in Las Vegas
  o Numerous meetings with partners and stakeholders
• May 2019: Met with Horizon and Takeda in Lake Forest and Deerfield, IL
NICA 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- May 2019: Spoke at the Annual Stakeholder Summit on 340B in Washington, DC
  - Audience: legislators, legislative staff, patient and provider advocacy organizations, professional societies
  - Topics: 340B market distortions in the non-oncology medical benefit drug landscape; the patient and provider perspectives; the access, quality of life, and financial implications for patients; and policy solutions.
  - Meetings with partners, legislators, and staffers
- May 2019: Hosted leadership from the Houston Business Coalition on Health for a meeting at NICA
  - Coalition of employer plan benefit managers
- June 2019: Attended the Biotechnology Innovation Organization's Conference in Philadelphia
  - Numerous meetings with partners and stakeholders
- June 2019: Hosted the infusion industry's first conference
  - 550 attendees, over 50 exhibiting organizations
- June 2019: Hosted the first National Treatment Adherence Summit
  - Audience: pharma, distributors, infusion providers, patient and provider advocacy organizations.
- June 2019: Attended a Hill Fly-In with the Alliance for Transparent & Affordable Prescriptions
  - Met with numerous legislators and staffers
- July 2019: Invited to participate in a biosimilars briefing with the US Food & Drug Administration in Washington, DC
- July 2019: Spoke at a Conference in Washington, DC on Non-medical Switching implications for patients and providers
- August 2019: Presented at the Rheumatology Nurses Society Conference in Orlando
- August 2019: Attended and supported a Lupus and Allied Diseases Association fundraising event to support lupus research and programs to empower autoimmune communities
- August 2019: Attended and presented at at BMS’s Immunoscience Advocacy Board on precision medicine in New Jersey
- September 2019: Meetings with legislative offices in Washington, DC
  - Additional meetings with partners
- September 2019: Attended and spoke at Horizon Therapeutics's Roundtable on Thyroid Eye Disease in Washington DC
NICA 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- September 2019: Attended the Coalition for State Rheumatology Organizations’ National Advocacy Meeting
  - Numerous meetings with partners and stakeholders
- October 2019: Presented at the Thyroid Eye Disease Patient Council in Atlanta
- October 2019: Presented at an education symposium for autoimmune communities in Denver
- October 2019: Presented at the Thyroid Eye Disease Patient Council in Phoenix, Arizona
- October 2019: Presented at the Texas A&M School of Public Health Networking Fair & Career Conference
- October 2019: Attended the BIO Patient Advocacy Summit in Washington DC
  - Numerous meetings with partners, stakeholders, legislators and staffers
- November 2019: Attended and spoke at BMS’ Immunoscience Advisory Board on precision medicine in New Jersey
- November 2019: Attended the American College of Rheumatology’s Conference in Atlanta
  - Numerous meetings with partners and stakeholders
- November 2019: Hosted Horizon Pharmaceuticals in NICA’s offices in Austin
- November 2019: Meeting with BCBST leadership regarding specialty pharmacy mandate
- December 2019: Met with prospective Strategic Partners in Washington, DC
  - Met with numerous partners and legislative offices.
- December 2019: Attended and presented at BMS’ Immunoscience Advisory Board meeting on precision medicine in New Jersey