OUR VISION.

to be the nation’s leading advocacy voice for office-based infusion and injection.

Our mission is to improve access to provider-administered medications through advocacy, education, and resource development.

WHO WE ARE.

The National Infusion Center Association (NICA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization established in 2010 to provide a national voice for the non-hospital, non-oncology, in-office infusion industry. We aim to ensure that our nation's sickest and most vulnerable citizens can access safe, high-quality, and cost-effective care while providing education and resources to stakeholders, clinicians, and patients alike.

WHAT WE DO.

ADVOCACY We work to identify, address, and overcome access challenges, barriers to care, and threats to the sustainability of non-hospital care settings before these factors disrupt access.

EDUCATION We empower patients with the educational content they need to take a more active role in managing their disease. We equip providers with educational materials to most effectively educate, communicate with, and ultimately care for their patients.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT We develop resources, like the Infusion Center Locator, to support patients’ access by helping connect them with the most conveniently accessible and low-cost care setting in their community.

WHY NICA?

NICA is the only nonprofit advocacy organization that exists to support access to these medications. Our success in overcoming many of the barriers and national issues affecting these access can be attributed to the passionate NICA team and board members who support and believe in the same mission.
SECOND ANNUAL NICA MEETING

NICA made the difficult decision to reschedule the second annual meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The next NICA Meeting will convene on June 25th and 26th, 2021 in Dallas, Texas at the Dallas Marriott Downtown. Infusion experts from across the country will gather to address the most pressing challenges in the infusion industry and discuss how to preserve and advance this important healthcare delivery channel. This meeting will serve as a unique opportunity to again network and learn from clinicians, advocates, and other industry professionals in the infusion landscape.

INFUSIONCONFUSION™ COMMUNITY FORUM

NICA began this year by introducing a new, one-of-a-kind resource: the InfusionConfusion™ Community. Infusion providers and patients now have an online support forum where they can connect with like-minded individuals, post the questions and challenges they face, and receive responses from industry professionals, colleagues, and fellow patients. Throughout the year, we will continue to cultivate this community by bringing in even more expert moderators to serve as subject matter specialists and we’ll create and expand upon disease-specific patient rooms as we build on the value of the forum.

ENHANCED MARKET TREND REPORT

In 2019, NICA published its first Annual Market Trend Report. To our knowledge, this was the first trend report exclusively focused on the non-oncology medical benefit drug market. As experts in this rapidly growing market segment, NICA is working toward further enhancing the value of this report for the 2020 release.

EXPAND THE INFUSION CENTER LOCATOR

This year, we will continue to enhance the Infusion Center Locator, the most valuable source for patients in finding an infusion center. With thousands of searches every month, insurance companies, referring prescribers, and patients are using the Locator to find a convenient center that administers a particular product. Are patients finding your Infusion Center? Claim and build your profile so your facility is not overlooked.

CREATE A TRADE ASSOCIATION

With evolving external market forces that increasingly threaten the viability of the most affordable settings for provider-administered drugs, the advocacy efforts through our existing public charity are simply not enough. Thus, we are establishing a trade association that will be dedicated to supporting the trade of furnishing provider-administered medications on an outpatient basis. The “National Infusion Center Association” brand, along with certain resources, will transition to the newly established trade association and the existing public charity will be renamed “Infusion Access Foundation”. We believe that this is a necessary and critically important, strategic step to be better positioned to preserve, optimize, and expand patient access.

UPDATE OUR STANDARDS FOR IN-OFFICE INFUSION

Building on last year’s efforts, NICA and the Standards Subcommittee are revising the Minimum Standards for In-Office Infusion, and will release a second edition later this year. Additionally, we are working to develop resources to support practices in meeting the Standards, such as policy templates and training checklists.

NICA PROMOTIONAL PATIENT-FOCUSED VIDEO

In January of 2020, the NICA team made a trip to Salt Lake City, Utah to direct a patient-focused promotional video to live on the NICA site and be broadcast across social media. This year, we’ll collaborate with our production team to piece the video together and disseminate to our digital audiences to share NICA’s advocacy mission.
THE INAUGURAL NICA ANNUAL MEETING
In June, we hosted our inaugural Annual Meeting in our hometown of Austin, Texas. Close to 500 industry professionals, clinicians, and advocates gathered together to learn from experts - and one another - on a variety of topics affecting the infusion industry. During the two-day event, attendees participated in thirteen breakout sessions lead by thought-leaders and infusion experts from some of the largest and most reputable organizations in the infusion landscape.

NEW NICA PROVIDER MEMBERS
In 2019, NICA welcomed 89 new provider member organizations across 31 different states, including Puerto Rico. Provider membership provides general mission support that allows us to continue providing advocacy support for patients, as well as build resources and education materials for patients and providers. We continuously work to develop resources and materials that empower patients to be involved in their disease management and equip providers to more effectively educate, communicate with, and ultimately care for their patients.

ADVOCACY EFFORTS
In 2019, NICA engaged on a variety of advocacy issues that would have impacted patients’ access including utilization management, cost-share assistance, down-coding CPT codes, and specialty pharmacy mandates. We sent several letters and co-authored two letters with the National Organization of Rheumatology Managers (NORM). NICA also supported legislation across several states that established or enhanced protections against step therapy, non-medical switching, copay accumulators, and many other issues that could adversely impact patients’ access to care.

NEW HAMPSHIRE USP 797 ISSUE
After receiving letters regarding mandatory United States Pharmacopoeia (USP) Chapter <797> compliance from New Hampshire’s Board of Pharmacy, infusion providers across the state contacted NICA to help address this immediate threat to patient access. NICA worked with other concerned stakeholders to draft New Hampshire Senate Bill 581 (NH SB 581), which amends the definition of compounding to preclude the preparation of a single dose of a non-hazardous, commercially available drug or licensed biologic for administration to an individual patient prepared in accordance with the manufacturer’s approved labeling. On June 12, 2018, the bill was signed into law by Governor Chris Sununu.

LAUNCH OF MEMBER RESOURCES CENTER
To better serve our growing number of Provider Members, NICA created and launched its Member Resource Center in July of 2018 to help infusion providers better connect with and care for their patients. Resources for purchase include sponsored Infusion Center Location listings, late-stage Biologic & Biosimilars Pipeline Reports, current IV/injectable drug list and Infusion Center Locator reports.