



Washington, DC (July 24, 2020) – The National Infusion Center Association released the following statement expressing its disappointment in the Trump Administration’s recently announced Executive Orders.

“We are deeply concerned with the Trump Administration’s decision to move forward with changes that would import foreign drug pricing policies through an International Pricing Index (IPI) Model and permit foreign drug importation. While we agree that prescription drug costs are a critical issue, it is troubling that the Administration is focusing on policies that would jeopardize access to quality care and life-saving treatments, rather than focusing on initiatives that would ensure vulnerable populations have unrestricted, safe and dependable care.

“While the National Infusion Center Association (NICA) opposes the announced changes as a whole, we do agree with the need to reform the 340B program. Many vulnerable populations rely on this program to facilitate access to essential medication such as insulin; however, hospitals have not been utilizing money for costs directly benefiting patients. There must be enhanced enforcement and accountability within the program so patients can access the proper help they need.

“Still, the IPI model has major flaws and, if implemented, could cause significant disruptions in care plans prescribed by physicians and delays in receiving new, innovative drugs and treatments. We have seen these same issues affecting patients in the suggested “reference countries” and it does not make sense to replicate those same flaws within our own health care system. Additionally, permitting the importation of drugs could further impact patients and threaten their safety. The U.S. is a leader in drug innovation thanks to our stringent examination process. Imported drugs, however, will not be up to those same standards, and this model also risks the possibility of introducing counterfeit drugs into the US drug supply chain, leading to worsened health outcomes for patients.

“Older Americans and underserved populations who have been disproportionately impacted by the current public health crisis already struggle to access the care they need. Provisions such as foreign reference pricing and drug importation will further restrict access and put patients in harm’s way. American patients rely on high quality medication for their wellbeing and the Administration must abandon policies that will impact the availability of treatments and quality of care.

“NICA urges the Trump Administration to reconsider its Executive Orders, abandon these potentially disastrous policy initiatives and work to provide common sense reforms that increase access to high quality care and directly address high out-of-pocket costs for patients.”