

# NICA NOTES:

## MEDICATION PREPARATION AREA

To reduce the risk of contamination, parenteral medications must be prepared in an appropriate area. While medications being administered immediately\* after preparation do not need to be mixed in a laminar flow hood or pharmacy cleanroom setting, there are important considerations to be made when selecting the medication preparation area.

Use this checklist to ensure your medication preparation area meets National Infusion Center Association standards.

- Designated area** is functionally separate, clean, & uncluttered
- Preparation activities take place on a **hard, non-porous surface** that can be disinfected
- At least 3 feet away from a sink**
  - If within 3 feet of a sink, a **splash guard** is installed to provide a physical barrier between the prep area and sink.
- Free from sources of contamination**, including:
  - Food and drink;
  - Biohazardous materials (e.g., lab specimens);
  - Visible contaminants, both non-microbial (e.g., rust, dust, flaking paint) and microbial (e.g., mold/mildew);
  - Airflow from HVAC vents, windows, etc.; and
  - Foot traffic (e.g., near entrance/exit, in busy hallway)

\*If extenuating circumstances preclude immediate administration, manufacturer guidelines regarding stability and storage must be followed; however, storage should not exceed 4 hours unless product was prepared in an environment with at least ISO Class 5 air quality in accordance with United States Pharmacopeia (USP) General Chapter <797> pharmacy standards for compounding sterile products.

This guide is for informational not intended to supersede guidance from the FDA, USP, state/local health departments, or other regulatory authorities.