



# 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.

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