



April 2, 2025

**NICA Clarifies Definition of "Compounding" in Win for Louisiana Infusion Providers**

NICA is pleased to share an important clarification from the Louisiana State Board of Nursing regarding the definition of "compounding" for infusion providers. In their 2023 Examiner, the Board stated that "RNs and APRNs in Louisiana are prohibited from compounding or otherwise mixing drugs, including IV substances and solutions, in non-emergent/non-life-threatening circumstances." This language caused some confusion among providers accustomed to having infusion nurses prepare medications in accordance with manufacturers' FDA-approved labeling.

Following constructive discussions, the Board shared a 2018 policy guidance that provides valuable clarification. The guidance states:

"Given the definition of compounding in the Pharmacy Practice Act, reconstitution (mixing of diluents and drug) could be construed as compounding. However, the Board of Pharmacy has consistently interpreted that definition such that the preparation of medication for emergency or immediate administration to a patient shall not be construed as compounding. This interpretation is grounded in the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, from which the following statement is abstracted: 'Compounding does not include mixing, reconstituting, or similar acts that are performed in accordance with the directions contained in approved labeling provided by the product's manufacturer and other manufacturer directions consistent with that labeling.'"

This clarification affirms that the federal definition of "compounding" takes precedence, and aligns with NICA's longstanding position that the routine practice of preparing parenteral medications according to FDA-approved labeling for immediate administration to a patient does not constitute "compounding". This distinction ensures that infusion nurses in Louisiana may continue preparing medications according to manufacturers' FDA-approved labeling without the need for a pharmacist or physician, as has long been standard practice in safe, nurse-led infusion care.

NICA sincerely appreciates the Louisiana State Board of Nursing for their willingness to engage in thoughtful dialogue and provide clear guidance. Their collaboration supports the continued delivery of safe and timely infusion care for patients across the state.

Thank you for your dedication to patient care and for being a valued part of our infusion provider community. If you are facing similar challenges or require clarification in your state, please reach out to NICA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Nyquist". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Nyquist, MPH  
President & CEO  
National Infusion Center Association