

Session Title: Innovations in Infusion Therapy Through Pharmacy/Nursing Collaboration

Speakers: Barb Nickel, APRN-CNS, CCRN, CRNI®
Scott Murray, PharmD, RPh

Can you share a preview of the key themes or topics you will be discussing at the conference?

Key themes: We will stress and illustrate the importance of effective collaboration between pharmacy and nursing since the expertise of each discipline is unique and critical to patient safety when delivering infusion therapy. Examples are understanding infusate characteristics, compounding, filtration, prevention and recognition of complications (extravasation, phlebitis), and strategies to ensure dose accuracy through the various methods of delivery.

What inspired you to focus on these particular areas in your presentation?

In the 2024 INS Standards, a pharmacist joined the Standards Committee for the first time. For the 2027 edition, Scott will be our pharmacy representative. It is clear that pharmacy/nursing collaboration has enhanced the quality of the Standards. In addition, both Scott and Barb will share professional examples of how collaboration between these two disciplines has improved patient safety.

How do you approach connecting with and engaging a diverse audience during your presentations?

One of the best methods of engaging a diverse audience is by sharing real life examples and case scenarios. This illustrates how collaboration can be built and sustained in meaningful ways. Polling questions are also very helpful to emphasize themes and gauge the professional experiences of our attendees.

What skills or qualities do you believe are essential for success in this field?

The most important quality in anyone involved in the field of infusion therapy is to be a life long learner, challenging the status quo, researching best methods, then acting as a change agent to bring best practices to their clinical area. That is best done with a multi-disciplinary team that shares their perspectives and expertise to develop, implement, monitor and sustain process improvement.

What strategies do you use to make complex topics more accessible and engaging to your audience?

Our presentation will explore the barriers to effective collaboration, strategies to build improved relationships, and provide examples. We will also provide rich resources that can be used to foster improved collaboration and provide time for audience Q&A.