Continuing education is a key component for expanding professional knowledge and honing specialized skills. Offering meaningful educational opportunities for the home and specialty infusion community is at the very foundation of NHIA's mission. As we look out at the continued transition of care into the home and other outpatient settings, we realize how critically important it is that clinicians working in home and specialty infusion are well trained.

The challenges are particularly true of clean room personnel involved in sterile compounding and home health nurses who act as a provider’s eyes and ears when caring for infusion patients. Professionals in these indispensable roles come to home and specialty infusion with varied backgrounds. It’s the responsibility of the provider organization employing them—or contracting with their agency—to ensure their competency meets standards.

We continually hear from members about the need for high-quality education to keep their personnel up to date on changing standards and training and competency requirements. To address this fundamental need, NHIA is offering two new comprehensive skills-based workshops in conjunction with our 2018 Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona on April 23-26.

The NHIA Sterile Compounding Clinic is open to sterile compounding and other health care professionals who operate and work in clean rooms or are called upon to perform aseptic manipulations in office settings or at a patient’s bedside. This four-day clinic covers technical aspects of incorporating standards into every practice. There will even be a simulated lab so participants can immediately put what they learn to use and test their skills. Included as part of the important program is a Sterile Compounding Regulatory Update pre-conference program that offers an overview on compliance for leadership and those who play an integral role in training, supervising, and assessing competency.

Another excellent program coming to the 2018 Annual Conference focuses on the training of home care nurses called upon to support infusion patients. The one-day Home Infusion RN Essentials will provide infusion nursing fundamentals and hands-on techniques that will enhance an organization’s ability to support the increasing demand for high-quality skilled home and alternate site infusion nurses.

NHIA recognizes our members’ commitment to patient safety and excellence. By adding these new sessions to our educational programming, we are signaling that we understand that practitioners with these highly specialized skill sets are essential to the success of any clinical practice. Ongoing training, learning with new techniques, and being alert to product innovations are some of the goals of continuing education. The 2018 NHIA Annual Conference will have programs perfectly suited to meet those objectives.