



**KENTUCKY
BOARD OF
NURSING**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Kelly Jenkins, Executive Director
Michael S. Rodman, Executive Director
Christopher P. Harlow, Executive Director**

**Contact: Marvin Bright
502-356-9033
Marvin.Bright@ky.gov**

Kentucky Boards of Medical Licensure, Nursing, and Pharmacy Issue Joint Statement on Retail IV Therapy Clinics

Frankfort, KY — [October 30, 2024] — In response to the rising trend of retail IV therapy clinics, the Kentucky Boards of Medical Licensure, Nursing, and Pharmacy have collaboratively issued a statement highlighting critical concerns regarding patient safety and regulatory compliance in this emerging sector.

Retail IV therapy clinics have proliferated across the state, often offering a variety of pre-selected IV “cocktails” that include a mix of saline, vitamins, minerals, amino acids, and sometimes prescription medications. While these services claim to alleviate conditions such as dehydration, migraines, and to enhance athletic recovery, the Boards emphasize that IV therapy is a medical practice requiring licensed professionals.

[A copy of the joint statement could be found here](#)

Key Concerns Include:

1. **Qualified Staff:** Diagnosis and treatment should only be conducted by licensed healthcare providers.
2. **Scope of Practice:** Administration of IV medications must follow stringent safety standards; many compounds are not FDA-approved.
3. **Legal Compliance:** Healthcare professionals must adhere to their defined scope of practice and cannot delegate responsibilities to unlicensed individuals.
4. **Patient Safety:** Monitoring by qualified practitioners is essential to mitigate complications during IV administration.
5. **Regulatory Compliance:** All compounding practices must be overseen by a licensed pharmacist, with limitations on the number of additives used.
6. **Non-Practitioner Restrictions:** Non-practitioners are prohibited from possessing legend medications.
7. **Delegation of Responsibilities:** Only Physicians and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are authorized to diagnose and prescribe treatments.
8. **Patient Participation:** Patients should seek professional guidance before making decisions regarding their medical treatment.
9. **Record Keeping:** Comprehensive evaluations and documentation must precede any IV therapy administration.

Call to Action:

The Boards urge all licensed professionals to review their legal responsibilities and ensure compliance with both state and federal regulations. The practice of unlicensed IV therapy is not only unethical but also illegal.

As the landscape of retail IV therapy evolves, it is imperative that Kentucky healthcare providers uphold the highest standards of practice to safeguard patient health and safety.