CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. An IV catheter insertion guide comprising:

an upstream platform that is configured to be positioned on a patient's skin on an upstream side of a planned insertion site; and

a downstream platform that is configured to be positioned on the patient's skin on a downstream side of the planned insertion site opposite the upstream platform, the downstream platform including a nerve stimulating component for stimulating nerves downstream from the planned insertion site.

2. The IV catheter insertion guide of claim 1, wherein the upstream platform includes a heating component for heating tissue around the planned insertion site.

3. The IV catheter insertion guide of claim 2, wherein heating component is an ultrasonic transducer.

4. The IV catheter insertion guide of claim 1, wherein the upstream platform comprises a light source.

5. The IV catheter insertion guide of claim 4, wherein the upstream platform comprises a main body having an inwardly curved front and the light source comprises a near infrared light bar that extends along the inwardly curved front.

6. The IV catheter insertion guide of claim 1, wherein the upstream platform comprises a main body having a top that forms a first angled support surface that is configured to support a catheter device at a first angle.

7. The IV catheter insertion guide of claim 6, wherein the upstream platform comprises an elevated support structure that forms a second angled support surface that is configured to support a catheter device at a second angle.

8. The IV catheter insertion guide of claim 7, wherein the second angle is greater than the first angle.

9. The IV catheter insertion guide of claim 7, wherein the elevated support structure is repositionable relative to the main body of the upstream platform.

10. The IV catheter insertion guide of claim 9, wherein the main body includes a channel in which a coupling element of the elevated support structure is moveable to reposition the elevated support structure.

11. The IV catheter insertion guide of claim 1, wherein the nerve stimulating component is an ultrasonic transducer.

12. The IV catheter insertion guide of claim 1, wherein the upstream platform and the downstream platform are configured to be secured to the patient's skin.

13. The IV catheter insertion guide of claim 12, wherein each of the upstream platform and the downstream platform include an adhesive or a strap by which the respective platform is secured to the patient's skin.

14. An IV catheter insertion guide comprising:

an upstream platform having a heating component for heating tissue around an insertion site, a light source for emitting light on the insertion site and one or more angled support surfaces for supporting a catheter device while a catheter of the catheter device is inserted at the insertion site; and

a downstream platform that includes a nerve stimulating component for stimulating nerves downstream from the insertion site.

15. The IV catheter insertion guide of claim 14, wherein the nerve stimulating component is an ultrasonic transducer.

16. The IV catheter insertion guide of claim 14, wherein the one or more angled support surfaces comprise a first angled support surface formed on a main body of the upstream platform and a second angled support surface formed on an elevated support structure that is coupled to the main body.

17. The IV catheter insertion guide of claim 16, wherein the elevated support structure is repositionable relative to the main body.