



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Division of Environmental Health

Beverly Eaves Perdue  
Governor

Terry L. Pierce  
Director

Dee Freeman  
Secretary

April 1, 2009

**CORRECTED MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Local Environmental Health Supervisors, Directors, and Coordinators  
**FROM:** Deborah W. Harris, Public Health Nursing Consultant  
Children's Environmental Health Branch  
**THROUGH:** Ed Norman, MPH, Program Manager  
Children's Environmental Health Branch  
**SUBJECT:** Administrative Rule 15A NCAC 18A .2820(d) and Emergency Medications

Administrative rule 15A NCAC 18A .2820(d) requires all medications to be stored in a locked cabinet or container. There have been requests to keep specific emergency medications unlocked as an exception to this rule. Dr. Dale Newton at East Carolina University and his pediatrician colleagues were consulted on this issue and concluded that emergency medications (where a delay of minutes could result in a serious negative outcome) should remain unlocked.

Also provided is a list of medications (List 2) that are often used by children in the treatment of asthma. Therefore, the following medications may be left unlocked if stored out of the reach of children.

1. Emergency Medication Exceptions to 15A NCAC 18A .2820(d)

Epi-Pen  
Glucagon  
Diazepam suppositories

2. The following medications, which may be administered by a metered dose inhaler (or ampoules for use in an aerosol machine), are also exempt. The list of metered dose inhalers is not inclusive and other brands or generic equivalents may be available. Note that some of these inhalers\* should not be used for "rescue" in acute asthma.

Albuterol (Proventil, Ventolin, Volmax)  
Terbutaline (Brethine, Bricanyl)  
Combivent (Albuterol/Ipratropium)  
DuoNeb (Albuterol/Ipratropium)  
Foradil (formoterol) \*  
Ipratropium \*  
Maxair (Pirbuterol)  
Metaprotererol  
Salmeterol (Serevent) \*  
Xoprenex