

**North Carolina Department of
Environment And Natural Resources**

Division of Environmental Health

Michael F. Easley, Governor
William G. Ross Jr., Secretary
Mike A. Kelly, Acting Director
Bart Campbell, Section Chief



November 4, 2003

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 to consider this issue. They concluded that emergency medications (where a delay of minutes could result in a serious negative outcome) should remain unlocked. They also provided a list of such medications (below) that are often used by children. Therefore, the following emergency medications may be left unlocked so long as they are stored out of the reach of children.

Exceptions to 15A NCAC 18A .2820(d)

Epi-Pen
Glucagon
Diazepam suppositories

The following medications, which may be administered by a metered dose inhaler (for use in an aerosol machine), are also exempt.

Albuterol (Proventil, Ventolin, Volmax)
Terbutaline (Brethine, Bricanyl)
Combivent (albuterol/pratropium)
DuoNeb (albuterol/pratropium)
Foradil (formoterol)
Ipratropium
Maxair (pirbuterol)
Metaprotererol
Salmeterol (Serevent)
Xoprenex

cc: Environmental Health Listserv
Local Health Director Listserv