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

Diazapam 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 Listsery

Local Health Director Listserv