



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES SECTION



August 20, 1999

JAMES B. HUNT JR.  
GOVERNOR

**MEMORANDUM**

WAYNE MCDEVITT  
SECRETARY

**TO:** Dawn Ranish, R.S.  
Environmental Health Program Specialist

LINDA C. SEWALL  
DIRECTOR

**FROM:** *WH* Worth Heath, Jr., Regional Environmental Health Specialist  
Children's Environmental Health Branch

MICHAEL U. RHODES  
SECTION CHIEF

**THROUGH:** *Ed Norman* Ed Norman, Program Supervisor  
Children's Environmental Health Branch

**SUBJECT:** Asthma Inhalers in Child Care Centers

This memo is in response to your letter dated August 3, 1999 in which you asked about asthma inhalers in child care centers. You asked specifically about school aged children who might have a medical need to keep the inhaler on their person.

There are some asthmatic children who require "rescue" inhalers and the availability of these products is a critical factor in the event of medical emergency. Although the child care sanitation rules do not make a specific exemption in 15 NCAC 18A .2820 (d) for inhalers, these products may be kept in the child's possession with a physician's permission or by parental consent stating this necessity in writing.

Thank you for asking about this issue. Please contact me at (252)522-2253 if you have further questions or concerns.

cc: EHSS Standard Distribution List