



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health • Local Technical Assistance and Training Branch  
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State Health Director

**To:** All Local Health Departments  
**Attention:** Health Directors and Director of Nursing  
**From:** Joy F. Reed, Head  
Local Technical Assistance & Training Branch  
**DATE:** February 12, 2008  
**TOPIC:** Public Health Nurse Dispensing

It has recently been brought to our attention that all Registered Nurses who are trained to dispense medications in health departments must be trained by a pharmacist. It is not consistent with NC regulations for one RN to train another. Therefore, we would suggest that when you negotiate your contract for a pharmacist's services, you include the pharmacist's responsibility to train **new** RN staff members to dispense medications (as required by the Board of Pharmacy) **as they are hired**.

At present, if you have registered nurses that need training please email your concerns and situation to [Denise.Perry@co.wake.nc.us](mailto:Denise.Perry@co.wake.nc.us) our NC DPH Pharmacist Consultant. If your current contracted pharmacist will agree to do the training, please have them contact Denise for teaching tools and guidelines.

cc: Denise Perry



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