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 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