



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
US ARMY GARRISON-ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL
1 ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61299-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

MAY 07 2009

IMNE-RIA-MWC

MEMORANDUM FOR Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) Parents

SUBJECT: Use of Teething Products in CYSS Setting

1. Information was recently released to alert CYSS employees and health consultants about recent developments regarding Benzocaine teething ointment (for example, Orajel).
2. The memorandum is attached that outlines the latest information regarding these types of basic care items, the training of CYSS staff, and the importance of communication between staff and parents.
3. If you need additional information, please contact our Army Public Health Nurse, Mr. Peter Mott, at Ft. Knox Kentucky, phone 502-624-0382.

Nancy J. Reeves
NANCY J. REEVES
Chief, Child, Youth & School Services



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
5109 LEESBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041-3258

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

MCHL-HN

February 23, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR All CYSS Employees and Health Consultants

SUBJECT: Use of Teething Products in CYS Setting

The purpose of this message is to alert CYSS employees and their health consultants about recent developments regarding a basic care item, benzocaine teething ointment (for example, Orajel). There are reports that over-use of this product can result in Methemoglobinemia, a blood disorder in which the body cannot recycle hemoglobin after it is damaged. Hemoglobin is the oxygen-carrying molecule found in red blood cells. In some cases of methemoglobinemia, the hemoglobin is unable to carry oxygen effectively to body tissues. Signs and symptoms of Methemoglobinemia include shortness of breath, bluish coloring of the skin and mucous membranes, mental status changes, headache, fatigue, exercise intolerance/lack of energy, dizziness and loss of consciousness.

This underscores the importance of recognizing WHY we go through the procedures of documenting and training providers on basic care items. It should be emphasized during medication administration training for childcare providers that this IS a drug, and needs to be applied AS DIRECTED. When receiving a child on who this product is being used, it is important to determine the last time it was administered prior to its use in the CYSS setting. Equally important is communicating with the family member who picked up the child regarding what time it was last administered while in the childcare setting.

As with all other medications, it is important to monitor the child's appearance and behaviors and notify the parents of anything unusual. Please contact your local Army Public Health Nurse if there are any questions or concerns. I am also available at 202-782-3964 or michael.bayles@amedd.army.mil.

E-Signed by BAYLES.MICHAEL.KEVIN.1042053453
VERIFY authenticity with ApproveIt
BAYLES.MICHAEL.KEVI

MICHAEL BAYLES
COL AN
Public Health Nursing Consultant to the
Army Surgeon General