

ANNOUNCEMENT

The following letter has been received for publication and we consider it of significant importance to reproduce here:

Dear Sir:

I'm engaged in what seems at times to be a one-man crusade. As an allergist I'm acutely aware of the life-or-death situations that can be created by insect stings. I've run into several cases where death could have been prevented if an emergency insect sting kit had been available.

We physicians give insect sting kits to patients who need them, and we train them in their use. Yet people in positions of responsibility — school nurses or principals, forest rangers, scoutmasters, and others who may encounter people in allergic shock — don't have the kits, nor do they know how to use them. Most state laws prohibit sales of such kits without the prescription of physicians. We physicians train our insect allergy patients to use them and see that a kit is available to them. I think state laws should be changed so that persons in the kinds of key positions indicated above, after receiving appropriate training, could purchase the kits without prescription. I hope others feel likewise and will be motivated to write their legislators to change the laws.

I would also appreciate hearing from other doctors who know of cases where the use of an insect sting kit would have prevented death. Write me at: Doctors Park, Building 4-C, Asheville, NC 28801.

Claude A. Frazier, M.D.