

Surf Life Saving New Zealand – Lifesaving Policy Statement

CONTENT CODE: SLS037	SUBJECT: Use of Methoxyflurane	
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Description:

Methoxyflurane, also known as Penthrane, is an analgesic vapour that is used in low concentrations to provide pain relief in conscious patients. It is administered using a green inhaler known as the Pentrox® Inhaler through which the patient breathes both in and out. Methoxyflurane is indicated in moderate to severe pain and is effective when used as part of a pain management plan that may include Paracetamol. A charcoal filter is attached to the inhaler which reduces the effects of the exhaled vapour on the attending lifeguards. The dosage, use and contra-indicators are included in the attached slides.

Benefits:

- Portable; size of a large highlighter pen
- Zero maintenance
- Easy to use; patient self administered
- Durable; not susceptible to sand and salt damage

The units have an expiry date and therefore the need to ensure units that are close to expiring are relocated to a high use club is required, for example; Red Beach will have their one or two units replaced with those units then being redistributed to Piha. This process may require CDO's to become active in managing resources thereby minimising wastage.

Use of Methoxyflurane:

- In an incident requiring the use of MOF, its use will be determined by assessing the patient's pain score along with a number of vital signs and visual observations.
- All information is to be recorded on the Incident Report Form (IRF) to justify its use.
- Strict adherence to the guidelines and checking of **contra indicators** must be confirmed by noting;
 1. **zero (0) renal impairment**
 2. **zero (0) Known history or family history of malignant hyperthermia**
 3. **zero (0) known allergy**
 4. **zero (0) use of Methoxyflurane within the last 7 days**
 5. **Patient is able to obey commands**
- The qualified individual administering MOF **should not delegate** the preparation of the inhaler or the questioning of the patient; they must retain total management of the patient and their pain relief.
- Following the use of the inhaler, the treating lifeguard will secure the used inhaler in a sealed plastic bag which is to be disposed of sensibly.
- The '**patient report information form**' must be completed for the incident and posted to the Training Manager in the SAE provided with each Methoxyflurane unit. A replacement unit will only be provided upon receipt of this document.
- **In all incidents where Methoxyflurane has been administered, an ambulance must be requested to transport the patient to the nearest Accident and Emergency Department or Medical centre**

A new document is recommended (see attached patient report/vitals form) that may be considered for use within SLSNZ in incidents where pain relief is provided; this then allows the club to retain their copy of the IRF. Guidelines and contra indicators are printed on the reverse for easy reference.

Who can administer Methoxyflurane, and for what Period of time?

Currently refreshed Pre Hospital Emergency Care qualified Lifeguards who:

- Have attended the Pain relief module and therefore have been registered as competent in the administration of analgesia and have attained the age of 18.
- Who belong to a Club and or Patrol for that club that has been accredited to Hold Methoxyflurane by SLSANZ Medical Director, Gary Payinda gpayinda@gmail.com

- What period of time am I accredited to administer ? .
 - Under the Ministry of Health “Standing Order” The member qualified to administer must be given the authority to administer annually.
 - “A standing order is a **written instruction** issued by a medical practitioner or dentist. It authorises a specified person or class of people (eg, paramedics, registered nurses) who do not have prescribing rights to administer and/or supply specified medicines and some controlled drugs” Standing Order Guidelines 2012 Ministry of Health New Zealand.2012
 - That member through their club must reapply for the authority to administer on an annual base. This is best done by posting or scanning a copy of their initial Practicing certificate (they receive from the Medical Director) to SLSANZ when the club medical officer posts through their annual club audit. PO Box 39129, Wellington Mail Centre, Lower Hutt 5045 (see below in safety and security) these will be resigned and dated by the Medical Director and posted back to your club.
 - Each member accredited to administer for that season must have their dated and resigned certificate or a copy of stored in the back of the Clubs POM for evidence to administer should the need arise .

Safety and security:

Only clubs, patrols or services with members / staff qualified to administer Methoxyflurane will be permitted to hold stock of the units. These units will be stored in a secure lockable cabinet in the first aid room when not required on the beach and available in the response packs.

The units will be stored overnight /weekly in the secure cabinet and removed by a trained member and placed in the beach / first response kit; at the conclusion of operations for the day or weekend, the units will be returned to the secure cabinet.

Annual Self Audit (October)

Club First Aid Officers will be required to conduct an audit of the units annually to ensure integrity of the product, expiry dates and stock numbers.

At this time a photo or electronic image of the lockable cabinet must be sent through to SLSANZ with along with a copy of the members practicing certificates for resigning, all those trained to administer the Methoxyflurane.

Each unit has a registration number attached which is recorded in the master register held by the National Life Saving and Education Manager SLSANZ

Replacement process:

A patient report form has to be sent in to the National Life Saving and Education Manager, upon receipt:

A replacement inhaler/s will be couriered to address detailed/on file

The National Life Saving and Education Manager administrator will be notified of the supply of inhaler/s and invoice the club/service.

Education and training:

The training in the use of MOF will be of 4 hour duration and will include the effective use of Paracetamol as a total pain management regime. It will involve some pain physiology, use of pain relief with other resources such as splints and oxygen and conclude with formulised assessment.

The training will cover the following aspects:

- Identify when the use of MOF is justified
- Contra indicators in the use of MOF
- How to administer the MOF
- Patient monitoring / side effects
- Disposal of used MOF
- Recording the use of MOF

This qualification will be refreshed biannually along with PHEC