# Methoxyflurane - NSOP

## Section 7 - First Aid Operations

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**Document Owner:** National Lifesaving Manager

### PURPOSE

To provide the process for clubs and services to order Methoxyflurane & how suitably qualified Lifeguards can apply to receive authorisation to administer Methoxyflurane from the SLSNZ Medical Director.

### Related Documents

SLSNZ Policy – Methoxyflurane: outlines the storage requirements for clubs/services and who can administer Methoxyflurane.

SLSNZ Standing Order Protocol for the Use of Methoxyflurane: The legal authorisation for the use of methoxyflurane by Surf Lifeguards.

### SCOPE

All Surf Lifesaving clubs and services.

### REQUIREMENTS

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| --- | --- |
| **Required PPE** | Medical gloves |
| **Awards/Licenses** | A club/service must be approved to hold Methoxyflurane by SLSNZ.  Individuals must hold a current Pain Relief module and have a current letter of approval giving them the authority to administer methoxyflurane from the National Lifesaving Manager and Medical Director. |
| **Training** | Advanced Surf First Aid/”PHEC”  Pain Relief module |
| **Other** | Must be 18 years or older |
| **Equipment** | Penthrox® Inhaler (green inhaler/whistle) |

### PROCEDURES

* 1. **Authorisation to administer**
     1. To administer methoxyflurane while performing duties as a Surf Lifeguard, SLSNZ requires Lifeguards to complete an annual application to be submitted to SLSNZ and approved by the SLSNZ Medical Director. Lifeguards must have completed the Advanced Surf First Aid (PHEC) qualification & the Pain Management Module.
     2. The application to administer is an annual requirement & is online via the SLSNZ website. SLSNZ will check all applicants’ prerequisites on the SLSNZ database and if approved will send an authority to administer letter via email to the Lifeguard.
  2. **Use:**
     1. When pain relief is required on the beach during patrol hours or as part of a service, an approved lifeguard will be responsible for removing the unit from the secure location, ensuring its safe use, and if unused, returning it to the secure location.
     2. **In all incidents where Methoxyflurane has been administered, an ambulance must be requested through 111.**
     3. Ambulance wait times vary around the country, therefore the patient must be consulted in determining the safest and most appropriate form of transport for them to receive further medical attention.
     4. Consultation with the St John clinical desk may also be appropriate when determining other transport options.
     5. A **‘SLSNZ Methoxyflurane Use Form’** must be completed and sent to SLSNZ for every use. Replacement units will only be provided upon receipt of this document. Completion of this form is a legal requirement.
  3. **Disposal:**
     1. Following the use of the inhaler, the treating lifeguard will dispose of the inhaler in the rubbish. Or;
     2. If still in use, the inhaler may be transferred to the care of an ambulance officer who is transporting the patient. The ambulance officer will then assume responsibility for unit disposal.
  4. **Stock Replacement process:**
     1. All used vials must be photographed.
     2. Photographs along with the *SLSNZ Methoxyflurane Use Form* or *SLSNZ Methoxyflurane Order Form*, depending on either the use or replacement of expired stock, must be completed.
     3. If replacing a used vial, the incident in which it was used must also be recorded on the SLSNZ PAM database.
     4. If replacing expired stock, the stock must be sent back to SLSNZ to allow for appropriate disposal.
     5. Once an order is approved by SLSNZ the vials will be sent to the club or service.
  5. **New Club/Service Application**
     1. Any Club or Service may apply to SLSNZ to obtain methoxyflurane; however there must be a Lifeguard at the club or service who is qualified and authorised to administer before SLSNZ may approve this request.
     2. New clubs must conduct an initial audit in line with the Annual Audit to show the presence of a locked cabinet
     3. Once approved, a *SLSNZ Methoxyflurane Order Form* can be completed to receive stock.
  6. **Safety and security:**
     1. Each year SLSNZ will update the approved club/service *Member In Charge Of Methoxyflurane* (1 only per club/service).
     2. Only clubs, patrols or services with Lifeguards qualified to administer Methoxyflurane will be permitted to hold stock of the units. These units must be stored in a secure location; for example a lockable cabinet or container such as a Pelican Case, at the club/service.
  7. **Annual Audit (October)** 
     1. Member in charge of Methoxyflurane must conduct an audit of the units annually to ensure the integrity of the product, expiry dates, and stock numbers. The content of the audit will be determined by SLSNZ but will normally include the following items
        + Image of the secure location, inside the club/service.
        + Image of all vials with expiry date visible.
        + Updated contact details for the *Member In Charge Of Methoxyflurane*
        + Image showing access to the *Methoxyflurane Use Form*