



1.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to all SLSNZ staff, clubs, services, and members.

2.0 PURPOSE

This policy details the requirements for who can administer Methoxyflurane, the paperwork required, and the storage requirements & ordering process for SLSNZ clubs.

3.0 INTRODUCTION

Methoxyflurane is a prescription-only medication used by specially trained lifeguards under the Standing Order of the SLSNZ Medical Director. Methoxyflurane (Penthrox inhaler), is an effective inhaled analgesic (pain-reliever) medication used to treat moderate-to-severe pain. It is supplied as a liquid that is administered using a green Penthrox inhaler through which the patient breathes both in and out. A charcoal filter is attached to the inhaler which reduces the effects of the exhaled vapour on personnel.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

SLSNZ, Surf Life Saving New Zealand

NSOP, National Standing Operating Procedure

5.0 RELATED DOCUMENT, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Legislation
2. SLSNZ Standing Order Protocol for the use of Methoxyflurane
3. SLSNZ NSOP Methoxyflurane
4. SLSNZ Methoxyflurane Use Report
5. SLSNZ Incident Report
6. SLSNZ Member Approval Letters

6.0 EXCEPTIONS

There are no exceptions to this policy.

7.0 POLICY

7.1 Use of Methoxyflurane:

SLSNZ Standing Order

- A standing order is a **written instruction** issued by a medical practitioner, authorising a specified person or class of people (e.g., Lifeguards and Patrol Support) who do not have prescribing rights to administer and/or supply specified medicines.

(Standing Order Guidelines, 2012, NZ Ministry of Health)

- The Current SLSNZ Standing Order will be available on the SLSNZ website.

Who can administer Methoxyflurane?



Lifeguarding Methoxyflurane

- SLSNZ members who fit the prerequisite requirements established in the SLSNZ Standing Order must submit an application to SLSNZ for review by the Medical Director. If approved, a signed authorisation letter is sent to the member. Retention of this document is a legal requirement.
- Only SLSNZ members who hold a current "Authorisation for Use" letter, signed by the SLSNZ Medical Director may administer Methoxyflurane. Lifeguards must reapply annually for this authorisation.
- Due to the controlled nature of methoxyflurane, SLSNZ reserves the right to decline or cancel any methoxyflurane orders, or approvals, at any stage if misuse is suspected.

7.2 Storage / Safety and security:

- All clubs/services that stock Methoxyflurane must be approved by SLSNZ.
- Clubs/Services wanting to obtain Methoxyflurane must apply to SLSNZ via an online application and must meet the standards of the Annual Audit in order to be approved.
- Approved clubs/services must store their units in a secure locked cabinet or case.

7.3 Annual Audit:

- SLSNZ requires that the members in charge of methoxyflurane at their club/service conduct an audit annually. This ensures the integrity of the product, expiry dates, and stock numbers.
- SLSNZ will keep on record a photo of the lockable cabinet & this must be updated & sent through to SLSNZ if changed.
- SLSNZ will hold updates with the members in charge of methoxyflurane at their club/service on stock supplies, the ordering process, qualified and authorised members, and the documented uses of methoxyflurane.

7.4 Replacement of Stock:

- SLSNZ will only replace stock upon receipt of evidence of expiring stock, used stock, or broken stock. All relevant reporting must be completed.
- Clubs must follow the Methoxyflurane NSOP to order replacement stock.

8.0 PROCEDURES

Refer to SLSNZ NSOP Methoxyflurane

9.0 DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

Policy owner	Chief Operations Officer	Date issued	July 2022
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