

# Surf Life Saving New Zealand Standing order Protocol for the use of Methoxyflurane

**Issued: 25/02/2026**

**Review date: 01/09/2026**

This Standing Order shall remain in effect until amended by the Surf Life Saving New Zealand (SLSNZ) Medical Director (**Issuer**), or until the Review Date, whichever occurs earlier.

<b>Standing Order Title</b>	Surf Life Saving New Zealand Standing Order for the use of Methoxyflurane ( <b>Standing Order</b> )
<b>Issuer</b>	Dr Gary Payinda, SLSNZ Medical Director and health practitioner
<b>Organisation</b>	SLSNZ and all its clubs that meet the criteria for the administration of Methoxyflurane under this Standing Order.
<b>Medicine/s</b>	Methoxyflurane
<b>Defined Terms</b>	Definitions for terms used throughout this Standing Order are listed in <a href="#">Schedule One</a> of this Standing Order
<b>Purpose</b>	<p>To allow the persons authorised to administer Methoxyflurane under this Standing Order, to administer Methoxyflurane when necessary to treat <a href="#">severe pain</a> in conscious patients on a beach who have capacity to provide an informed consent to the administration of the Methoxyflurane or, if they lack capacity, informed consent is provided by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an <a href="#">authorised decision-maker</a>; or</li> <li>• a <a href="#">parent or legal guardian</a> of a child or young person under the age of 16 years; or</li> <li>• <a href="#">Right 7(4)</a> Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers Rights applies (<b>Code of Rights</b>).</li> </ul>
<b>Rationale</b>	Incidents often occur in locations where support from paramedics, doctors and medical clinics is not immediately available, and the patient requires transportation to medical care. In this situation, if the patient is suffering <a href="#">severe pain</a> , persons authorised to administer Methoxyflurane under this Standing Order may do so.

<p><b>Class of person(s) authorised to administer Methoxyflurane under this standing order</b></p> <p>(each an <b>Authorised Member</b>, part of the <b>Authorised Class</b>)</p>	<p>The class of persons authorised to administer Methoxyflurane under this standing order include persons who meet all of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• member of SLSNZ;</li> <li>• name and contact details on the SLSNZ Methoxyflurane register;</li> <li>• holds a current Authorisation for Use Letter signed by the Issuer</li> </ul> <p>An Authorisation for Use Letter will only be issued to an applying candidate where the Issuer is satisfied that they meet the <a href="#">Competency/training requirements for the person(s) authorised to administer Methoxyflurane under this standing order</a></p> <p>The Issuer conducts an <a href="#">Annual Competency Review</a> of the existing Authorised Class and applying candidates to ensure that the relevant requirements stated in this Standing Order are fulfilled.</p>
<p><b>Circumstances for activating the standing order</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Severe pain</a> in injured beachgoers awaiting transfer to medical care</p>
<p><b>Dosage instructions</b></p>	<p>3mL Methoxyflurane per dose inhaler AC Chamber (max 2 doses)</p> <p>In patients aged 16 years and under, the minimum effective dose required to achieve analgesia should be used, and the patient must be capable of self-administration under supervision. Informed consent must be obtained from a parent or other authorised decision maker prior to administration in patients under 16 years of age.</p>
<p><b>Route of administration</b></p>	<p>Inhalation</p>



<p><b>Persons to whom Methoxyflurane may be administered under the standing order</b></p>	<p>Methoxyflurane may be administered to injured beachgoers experiencing <a href="#">severe pain</a> who have given informed consent and are not subject to the <a href="#">Exclusions that apply to this standing order</a></p> <p>The only circumstance in which informed consent is not required is if <a href="#">Right 7(4) of the Code of Rights</a> is engaged</p> <p><b>Guide to informed consent for adults:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adults who have capacity to make decisions in relation to their care and welfare have the right to accept, refuse, or withdraw consent at any time;</li><li>• Where an adult lacks capacity to give an informed consent, consent can be given, refused, or withdrawn on their behalf by an <a href="#">authorised decision-maker</a>.</li></ul> <p><b>Guide to informed consent for children and young persons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children and young persons under the age of 16 years do not have the capacity to give informed consent. This will need to be obtained from the child and/or young person’s parent or legal guardian.</li><li>• Young persons aged 14-16 years may consent if considered to have sufficient understanding of why the Methoxyflurane is being offered, what the Methoxyflurane does, its possible side effects, and can weigh up this information and communicate an informed decision.</li></ul>
<p><b>Exclusions that apply to this standing order</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personal or family history of malignant hyperthermia</li><li>• Known allergy to methoxyflurane or inhalational anaesthetics</li><li>• Altered mental status or other inability to safely self-administer methoxyflurane inhaler</li><li>• Has capacity but unwilling to give informed consent</li><li>• Lacks capacity (due to, amongst other conditions, a possible head injury or intoxication) to give informed consent (unless informed consent is provided by an <a href="#">authorised decision-maker</a> or, in relation to a child or young person under the age of 16 years, a <a href="#">parent or legal guardian</a> or <a href="#">Right 7(4) of the Code of Rights</a> applies</li></ul>

<p><b>Competency/training requirements for the person(s) authorised to administer Methoxyflurane</b></p>	<p><b>All members of the Authorised Class must:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold a current biennial renewal of Advanced Surf First Aid (PHEC) and pain management qualification</li> <li>• Have completed all the documentation requirements for the administration of Methoxyflurane</li> <li>• Ensure that all SLSNZ policies and procedures surrounding the use of medications are adhered to</li> </ul> <p>The Pain Management qualification is 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 include formal assessment.</p> <p>The training will cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify when the use of Methoxyflurane is appropriate</li> <li>• Contraindications to the use of Methoxyflurane</li> <li>• How to administer Methoxyflurane</li> <li>• Patient Monitoring</li> <li>• Side effects</li> <li>• Disposal of used Methoxyflurane canisters</li> <li>• Recording the use of Methoxyflurane for audit.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Annual Competency Review</b></p>	<p>Each year in September the Issuer will carry out an <a href="#">Annual Competency Review</a> of each Authorised Member and/or applying candidates</p> <p>To satisfy the Issuer that an applying candidate is competent to become and/or remain an Authorised Member, it must be shown that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applying candidate meets (or will be able to meet upon receipt of an Authorisation for Use Letter) the eligibility requirements for <a href="#">Person(s) authorised to administer Methoxyflurane under this Standing Order</a>; and</li> <li>• The applying candidate has completed the <a href="#">Competency/training requirements for the person(s) authorised to administer</a> and will continue to meet these requirements until the next competency review occurs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Auditing</b></p>	<p>Pain relief report forms will be audited quarterly by the Issuer.</p>

**Additional information**

All relevant SLSNZ Members and SLSNZ Clubs must be familiar with and adhere to the Standing Order Protocol, SLSNZ Policies and any relevant National Standard Operating Procedures (**NSOPs**) and/or Club/Service Operating Procedures (**CSOPs**) (collectively, **SLSNZ policies and procedures**). These can be found [here](#).

SLSNZ policies and procedures relevant to the administration of methoxyflurane include:

- [SLSNZ Policy - Methoxyflurane](#)
- [Methoxyflurane - NSOP](#)
- [Patient Consent - NSOP](#)
- [Methoxyflurane Order Form](#)
- [Record of Methoxyflurane Use](#)
- [Methoxyflurane Audit and New Club Requests](#)

The SLSNZ policies and procedures are to be read alongside the Standing Order and adhered to by all parties working with Methoxyflurane



Signed:

Name:	Dr Gary Payinda	Date:	25/2/2026
Title:	Medical practitioner and SLSNZ Medical Director		

**Schedule One: Definition of terms used in standing order**

<b>NSOP</b>	National Standard Operating Procedure
<b>PHEC</b>	Pre-Hospital Emergency Care
<b>Code of Rights</b>	Health and Disability Commissioner (Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights) Regulations 1996
<b>Right 7(4) of the Code of Rights</b>	<p>(4) Where a consumer is not competent to make an informed choice and give informed consent, and no person entitled to consent on behalf of the consumer is available, the provider may provide services where—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) it is in the best interests of the consumer; and</li> <li>(b) reasonable steps have been taken to ascertain the views of the consumer; and</li> <li>(c) either— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) if the consumer's views have been ascertained, and having regard to those views, the provider believes, on reasonable grounds, that the provision of the services is consistent with the informed choice the consumer would make if he or she were competent; or</li> <li>(ii) if the consumer's views have not been ascertained, the provider takes into account the views of other suitable persons who are interested in the welfare of the consumer and available to advise the provider.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Severe pain</b>	The patient will self-rate pain at 7/10 or higher. Or show signs of distress such as crying, moaning, or inconsolability.
<b>Authorised decision-maker</b>	<p>A person will be legally authorised to provide consent on behalf of a consumer if they hold one of the following roles in relation to that consumer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a welfare guardian appointed by the Family Court under the relevant legislation; or</li> <li>(b) an enduring power of attorney for personal care and welfare that is currently in effect.</li> </ul>
<b>Parent or legal guardian</b>	A person will qualify as a parent or legal guardian where they are the child or young persons birth parent or a person who has legally been appointed as the child's guardian.