



SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA POLICY STATEMENT PAIN MANAGEMENT

POLICY
NUMBER
3.12
JULY
2009

INTRODUCTION

Pain management is a critical role of first responders and Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) has extended capability to include the use of analgesic gases. Methoxyflurane has been selected as a drug which is simple to administer and will allow patients to have pain relief whilst awaiting emergency services. This policy will outline product details, governance of the drug, training requirements and penalties for misuse.

This policy is to be reviewed prior to the commencement of each season by the SLSA Director of Lifesaving and the SLSA Honorary Medical Officer.

AIM

This policy aims to:

- Define the drug and its purpose
- Identify basic protocols for the drug
- Outline governance of the drug
- Specify training requirements to administer methoxyflurane
- Stipulate penalties for misuse

DEFINITIONS

'Analgesia'	Relief of pain
'Analgesic'	A drug or treatment that provides relief of pain
'Methoxyflurane'	A gas that is inhaled to provide relief of pain
'Penthrane'	Proprietary name for methoxyflurane
'Pentrox'	Proprietary name for methoxyflurane and delivery system

PURPOSE

The use of Methoxyflurane will allow SLSA to deliver advanced pain relief to the public and its members through the application of pain management measures including analgesic gases through frontline services.

DRUG INFORMATION

Methoxyflurane is a clear, almost colourless, mobile liquid with a characteristic odour. At low concentrations the inhaled vapour is used to provide analgesia in conscious patients or in patients undergoing anaesthesia.

Application using an inhalation device for methoxyflurane is believed to be the best suited to our needs and purpose. Methoxyflurane product components typically include 3ml bottle of methoxyflurane and the inhaler. There is the option of a charcoal filter that has been developed to address the concerns regarding carcinogenic exposure in enclosed environments. It is important to recognize that the inhaler has been designed to incorporate application of the drug whilst oxygen is being administered simultaneously.

Contra-Indications include:

- Renal impairment
- Renal failure
- Hypersensitivity to fluorinated anaesthetics
- Cardiovascular instability
- Respiratory depression
- Head injury or loss of consciousness
- A history of possible adverse reactions in either the patient or relatives.

BASIC PROTOCOL

Methoxyflurane is to be administered only by qualified, proficient and financial members of SLSA. It should only be administered once the level of pain has been established and other pain management solutions such as 'ICE' are considered. The drug must not be given to patients that:

- The casualty cannot understand or comply with the instructions for use
- The casualty has a history of kidney disease (renal impairment or renal failure), as methoxyflurane may cause kidney damage.
- There is a decreased level of consciousness - Head injury or drug/alcohol induced
- The casualty has a known allergy to methoxyflurane
- There has been a severe allergic reaction to general anaesthetics in the casualty or the casualty's family
- Casualties who have received methoxyflurane at any time in the past week
- Casualties with inadequate respiratory effort or rate
- Casualties suffering multi-trauma and shock.

A dedicated incident form suited to meet the relevant state permit requirement must be kept to record each use of methoxyflurane. At a minimum this form will include:

- Date
- Patient name
- Date of birth
- Indication for use
- Time treatment commenced
- Amount of Methoxyflurane loaded into Pentrox® inhaler.

For distribution, storage, disposal and administrative protocols, see 'Governance'.

Refer to the latest version of the SLSA Pain Management educational resources and the relevant state/territory standard operating procedure for further information.

GOVERNANCE

Methoxyflurane distribution, storage, disposal and administration are regulated by a drug and poisons act of each state parliament and requires strict drug and poison control plans. The authorities that oversee these acts and issue permits for possession and use include:

<p>NEW SOUTH WALES Pharmaceutical Services Branch</p> <p>NORTHERN TERRITORY Poisons Control Department of Health & Community Services, Northern Territory</p> <p>QUEENSLAND Drugs, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Environmental Health Unit Queensland Health</p>	<p>SOUTH AUSTRALIA Pharmaceutical Services Drug & Alcohol Services South Australia</p> <p>VICTORIA Drugs and Poisons Regulation Group Department of Human Services, Victoria</p>	<p>TASMANIA Pharmaceutical Services Branch Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania</p> <p>WESTERN AUSTRALIA Drugs, Poisons & Therapeutic Goods Control Branch Environmental Health Directorate Department of Health, Western Australia</p>
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Each State Centre will be the permit holder for obtaining and distributing the drug. Purchase and supply of the drug will be via a state centre and will comply with the relevant state drug and poison acts, regulation and control measures. An audit trail for purchase, supply and use is a critical aspect for compliance. The specific process will be outlined in the relevant standard operating procedure for each state.

ACCREDITATION

The SLSA Pain Management Certificate (Methoxyflurane) is the award required by current members or employees of SLSA or it's affiliated bodies to be permitted to carry and administer methoxyflurane. The pre-requisite for this award include:

- SLSA Senior First Aid Certificate (currently proficient) **OR**,
HLTCPR 2011A Perform CPR. HLTF201A Perform Basic Emergency Life Support, HLTF201A Apply First Aid, PUAEME001B Provide Emergency Care and PUAEME002C Manage Injuries.
- SLSA Advanced Resuscitation Certificate (currently proficient) **OR**,
PUAEME001B Provide Emergency Care and PUAEME003C Administer Oxygen in an Emergency Situation.
- Minimum of eighteen (18) years of age on the date of final assessment.

Proficiencies for the award must be conducted at a minimum every two years or as directed by state lifesaving and standard operating procedures.

Note: due to differences in state legislation this is a minimum requirement only and the award may be subject to additional pre-requisites. Refer to the relevant state centre for further information.

PENALTIES FOR LOSS & MISUSE

In cases where a breach of security has occurred, the following will apply:

Action	Penalty
Loss or theft of methoxyflurane equipment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorisation to administer methoxyflurane under Surf Life Saving guidelines maybe revoked as recommended by investigation findings. 2. In the case of theft, the matter will be referred to the police.
Inappropriate use of methoxyflurane (misuse).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any member found to have used methoxyflurane or allowed another person to use methoxyflurane for any purpose other than specified by this policy will be suspended from the organisation for a period of not less than six (6) months. 2. The matter will be referred to the police and the authorisation to administer methoxyflurane will be permanently revoked. 3. Subsequent breaches of security will result in permanent suspension from the organisation.

FURTHER ADVICE AND INFORMATION

If you require further advice or assistance please contact Surf Life Saving Australia on (02) 9300 4000 or your state centre:

New South Wales (02) 9984 7188
 Queensland (07) 3846 8000
 Victoria (03) 9676 6900
 South Australia (08) 8354 6900
 Western Australia (08) 9243 9444
 Tasmania (03) 6223 5555
 Northern Territory (08) 8985 6588