

Local anaesthetic authorisation guideline

Contents

Local anaesthetic authorisation guideline	1
Local anaesthetic provision.....	1
Issue of a Restricted Veterinary Medicine (RVM) authorisation	3
Template for veterinary authorisation of local anaesthetic for calf disbudding	4
Responsibilities when operating under this veterinary authorisation	6
Issue of a Veterinary Operating Instruction (VOI)	7
VOI template for veterinary authorisation of local anaesthetic for calf disbudding.....	8
Responsibilities when operating under this VOI.....	10

Intention statement

This document should be used by veterinarians to fulfil their obligations under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Act, and the Veterinary Council of New Zealand (VCNZ) Code of Professional Conduct (CoPC) when assisting non-veterinary persons to safely and effectively disbud calves in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 1999, and regulation 57 “Disbudding of cattle beasts” in the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018. From 1st October 2019 it will be mandatory to use local anaesthetic in all calves of all ages, when they are disbudded.

In addition to these guidelines, veterinarians are encouraged to use the NZVA Disbudding Training Guide which provides information relating to the training of farm staff and farm contractors to disbud calves in accordance with the Regulations.

These guidelines and the training guide assume that the people being trained and assessed have a basic level of understanding and experience of working with and handling young cattle.

These guidelines (and the training and assessment guide) should be considered the minimum acceptable standard to meet regulatory requirements, and treatment of calves is not limited to that detailed in these documents. Veterinarians are encouraged to:

- promote use of long-acting pain relief
- consider alternative techniques (which have proven efficacy)
- advocate for and administer sedation to calves in preference to conscious disbudding.

Local anaesthetic provision

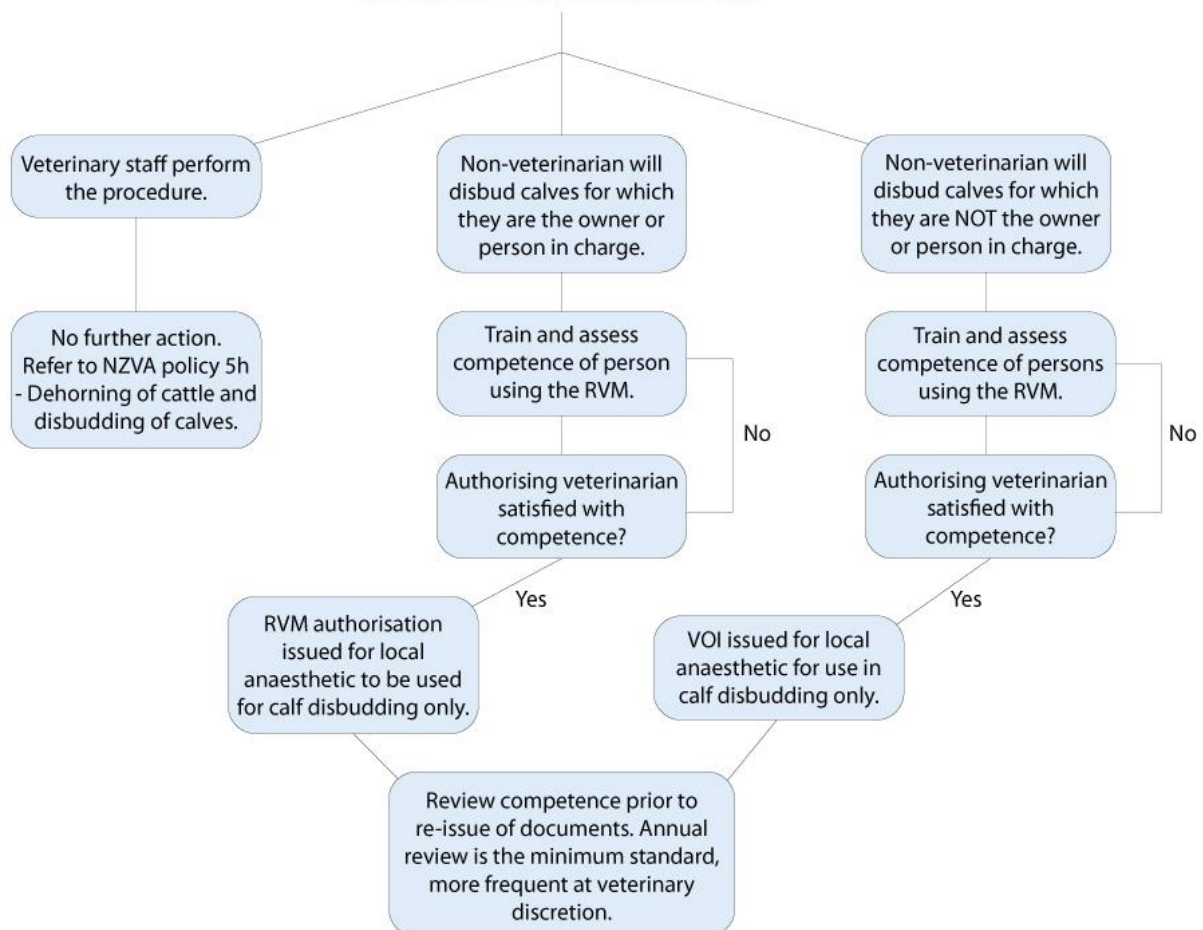
There are three options available to support calf welfare through provision of local anaesthetic for calf disbudding:

1. Veterinarians and their technicians perform the disbudding with local pain relief +/- sedation +/- non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs). Disbudding performed by veterinary staff is outside

the purpose of this document, and not discussed further. Veterinarians and veterinary practices seeking guidance on disbudding and/or dehorning of cattle are referred to NZVA [Policy 5h - Dehorning of Cattle and Disbudding of Calves](#).

2. A veterinarian issues a restricted veterinary medicine (RVM) authorisation to allow a non-veterinarian to buy local anaesthetic for disbudding calves for which they are the owner or person in charge.
3. A veterinarian issues a Veterinary Operating Instruction (VOI) for use of local anaesthetic for disbudding calves for which they are not the owner or person in charge.

Calves to be disbudded



Issue of a Restricted Veterinary Medicine (RVM) authorisation

Local anaesthetic is a restricted veterinary medicine (RVM) under the ACVM Act 1997 and therefore requires veterinary authorisation to allow non-veterinarians to purchase and use it. A veterinarian may issue an authorisation for local anaesthetic to a non-veterinarian if the product is to be used for disbudding calves for which they are the **owner or person in charge**.

When considering issue of a veterinary authorisation for local anaesthetic for use in calf disbudding, points to note include:

- Prior to issue of a veterinary authorisation the veterinarian must confirm that any person who will administer the RVM is able to competently carry out the authorising veterinarian's instructions for use, as detailed in the **ACVM requirements for authorising veterinarians**.
- An on-farm visit for training and assessment for efficacy of local anaesthetic and disbudding technique is expected, to ensure the authorising veterinarian is confident with the person's competency.
- Re-authorisation of local anaesthetic is required on at least an annual basis under the VCNZ CoPC. An annual farm visit is recommended.
- The authorising veterinarian may issue an authorisation of any duration less than 12 months as appropriate based on the assessment of the individual situation by the veterinarian.
- Further training may need to be required by the veterinarian on a case-by-case basis, related to an assessment of competency of the owner or person in charge.

It is recommended that veterinarians use the following veterinary authorisation template as part of the RVM consultation process. Refer to the Disbudding Training Guide for further guidance on appropriate training and assessment of technique.



Template for veterinary authorisation of local anaesthetic for calf disbudding

Veterinarian details	
Name of authorising veterinarian:	
Address of veterinary practice:	
Veterinary practice phone number:	
Person details	
Name of owner/person in charge of animals:	
Address of owner/person in charge of animals:	
Names of other staff who will undergo training in the use of local anaesthetic for disbudding:	
Veterinary authorisation details	
Commencement date:	
End/review date:	
Repeat supply permitted within the period of validity of the authorisation? Process:	Yes/No
Process for skill training and assessment:	
Process for monitoring compliance:	
Disbudding details	
Planned date(s) for calf disbudding:	
Animals to be treated (e.g. healthy calves of age 2-6 weeks):	
Approximate number of calves to be disbudded:	
Location(s) that disbudding will be performed:	
Planned disbudding implement (e.g. electric irons, gas irons):	



Other procedures to be carried out during disbudding (e.g. ear tagging, vaccination):	
Adverse events / outcomes	
Management of adverse events/outcomes on-farm:	
Events/outcomes requiring veterinary attention:	
Veterinary contact details for emergency treatment:	
Restricted veterinary medicine details	
Product classification and type:	RVM - local anaesthetic
Product details including trade name, strength, and formula type:	[trade name], 2% (20mg/mL) lignocaine hydrochloride Sterile liquid for injection
Quantity authorised:	
Dose and frequency:	(e.g. 4mL to be injected ONCE under the skin for each horn bud. Repeat ONCE if necessary to achieve efficacy. DO NOT EXCEED __mL per animal).
Required storage access and security for RVM product(s):	
Animal treatment information to record:	
RVM information to be recorded in register after each RVM use:	Date of use Initials/code of authorised user Reason for use Reconciliation of RVM on-hand and RVM used Other:
Note: All RVM records must be kept for as long as the authorising veterinarian requires	
Process for RVM product reconciliation:	
Where will all records be stored:	
How long must records be kept: (Suggested minimum of 5 years – be aware other entities may require records to be kept longer)	
Process for disposal of excess RVM product(s):	
Notes:	



Responsibilities when operating under this veterinary authorisation

In signing below I acknowledge that:

- I have legal obligations for the welfare of all animals in my care. I specifically acknowledge that the disbudding of calves must be done in accordance with all legislation.
- The authorising veterinarian will require me and the named staff below to undergo training and assessment in the procedure of calf disbudding. Only named staff that have been trained are permitted to perform calf disbudding; they must perform the procedure as trained by the authorising veterinarian or delegated authority.
- Any variation from the trained procedure must be discussed with my veterinarian prior to implementation (e.g. different anaesthetic method or additional procedures at the time of disbudding).
- This veterinary authorisation only allows me to use the product(s) on animals I own or am in charge of as defined by the Agricultural and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997, the Animal Products Act 1999, and the Animal Welfare Act 1999.
- Local anaesthetic authorised for disbudding calves cannot be used for any other procedure. A separate authorisation for local anaesthetic is required for any other procedure.
- I understand that:
 - i. failing to uphold animal welfare and /or
 - ii. failing comply with this agreement and/or
 - iii. breaching the terms of the RVM authorisation issued to me may result in revocation of the authorisation, an MPI investigation and subsequent infringement, and/or potential prosecution under the Agricultural and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997, the Animal Products Act 1999, and/or the Animal Welfare Act 1999

Veterinarian witness

Veterinarian name

Signature

Date

Name:
Responsibility:

Signed:
Date:

Name:
Responsibility:

Signed:
Date:

Name:
Responsibility:

Signed:
Date:

Issue of a Veterinary Operating Instruction (VOI)

Local anaesthetic is a restricted veterinary medicine (RVM) under the ACVM Act 1997 and therefore requires veterinary authorisation to allow non-veterinarians to purchase and use it. A veterinarian should issue a veterinary operating instruction (VOI) as part of a veterinary authorisation if the RVM product is to be used for disbudding calves for which they are **NOT the owner or person in charge**.

A VOI may also be issued to the owner/person in charge if the veterinarian considers this appropriate as part of the veterinary authorisation.

When considering issuance of a veterinary operating instruction (VOI) for local anaesthetic for use in calf disbudding, points to note include:

- VOIs should only be issued in accordance with the [Ministry for Primary Industries \(MPI\) guidelines](#) document.
- A VOI is issued to specific non-veterinarian persons to hold and use RVMs only in accordance with the authorising veterinarian's instructions.
- The uses for the RVM should be specified (i.e. local anaesthetic for disbudding of calves), and it should be made clear that using the RVM for any other purpose(s) is not authorised by the VOI.
- Every person authorised to use RVMs under the VOI must be named, and the skill required by them must be specified (i.e. appropriate and effective analgesia of the horn bud; safe and effective destruction of horn tissue).
- The veterinarian must be confident that the specified person(s) are capable of complying with the VOI, by way of on-farm training and assessment for efficacy of local anaesthetic and disbudding technique prior to issue of the VOI.
- A review of competency should be undertaken at least annually to ensure competency is maintained. An on-farm visit is expected.
- More frequent competency assessment may be required to ensure the authorising veterinarian is confident in the capability of the person(s) operating under the VOI – this is at the discretion of the authorising veterinarian.
- Specified persons can only purchase the local anaesthetic directly from the veterinary business that issued the VOI, in order to undertake the procedure detailed in the VOI.

It is recommended that veterinarians use the following VOI template as part of the RVM consultation process. Refer to the Disbudding Training Guide for further guidance on appropriate training and assessment of technique.



VOI template for veterinary authorisation of local anaesthetic for calf disbudding

Veterinarian details	
Name and signature of authorising veterinarian:	
Address of veterinary practice:	
Veterinary practice phone number:	
VOI details	
VOI unique identifier:	
Purpose of VOI:	
Commencement date:	
End/review date:	
Personnel	
Name(s) and responsibility of person(s) authorised to operate under this VOI:	See declaration below
Chain of command (if appropriate):	
Process for skill training and assessment:	
Process for monitoring VOI compliance:	
Animal details	
Animals to be treated under this VOI (e.g. healthy calves of age 2-6 weeks): Note: Individual animals must be identified in the treatment records	
Approximate number of calves to be disbudded:	
Approximate geographic range over which disbudding will be performed:	(e.g. East Coast South Island from Balclutha north to Taieri plains)
Procedure and equipment	
Detail of procedure to be performed under this VOI:	(e.g. subcutaneous injection of local anaesthetic to achieve effective analgesia of horn bud prior to destruction of horn tissue)
Other procedures to be carried out during disbudding:	(e.g. ear tagging, vaccination)
Required equipment:	(e.g. needles, electric/gas disbudding iron, head crush)
Expected treatment outcomes:	(e.g. effective analgesia of horn bud and effective destruction of horn tissue)
Procedure instructions:	



Adverse events / outcomes	
Management of adverse events/outcomes on-farm:	
Events/outcomes requiring veterinary attention:	
Veterinary contact details for emergency treatment:	
Restricted veterinary medicine details	
Product classification and type:	RVM - local anaesthetic
Product details including trade name, strength, and formula type:	[trade name], 2% (20mg/mL) lignocaine hydrochloride Sterile liquid for injection
Required storage access and security for RVM product(s):	
Animal treatment information to record:	
RVM information to be recorded in register after each RVM use:	Date of use Initials/code of authorised user Reason for use Reconciliation of RVM on-hand and RVM used Other:
Note: All RVM records must be kept for as long as the authorising veterinarian requires	
Process for RVM product reconciliation: Note: all records of RVM purchases and disposals must be kept and periodically reconciled (at least every 6 months) with the record/register (above)	
Where will all records be stored:	
How long must records be kept: (Suggested minimum of 5 years – be aware other entities may require records to be kept longer)	
Process for disposal of excess RVM product(s):	
Notes:	

Responsibilities when operating under this VOI

In signing below I acknowledge that:

- During the disbudding of calves under the Veterinary Operating Instruction (VOI) issued to me for this purpose, I have a legal obligation to uphold animal welfare, including in their care and handling.
- I will ensure all RVMs are stored correctly, and all records pertaining to the VOI and associated RVMs are kept in accordance with the ACVM Act 1997 and the Animal Products Act 1999.
- Under any Veterinary Operating Instruction (VOI) issued to me for the provision of local anaesthetic for disbudding of calves:
 - I am required to competently administer analgesia (ensuring disbudding is pain-free)
 - I must handle the calves so as to minimise unnecessary and unreasonable pain and distress, including minimising handling stress for the calves.
 - I agree to undertake and participate in training and assessment regarding the procedure of calf disbudding as required by the veterinarian issuing the VOI.
 - The veterinarian has no obligation to issue me a VOI, and may revoke it at any time.
 - I agree to supply the veterinarian issuing the VOI data and information relating to the VOI (including dates, location, and number of calves disbudded) upon request and/or upon agreed dates.
 - I agree to comply with any request, at any reasonable time, from the veterinarian issuing the VOI to assess my compliance in the execution of the VOI.
- I understand that
 - i. failing to uphold animal welfare and /or
 - ii. failing comply with this agreement and/or
 - iii. breaching the terms of the VOI issued to me may result in an investigation, infringement, and/or potential prosecution under the Agricultural and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997, the Animal Products Act 1999, and/or the Animal Welfare Act 1999.
- I agree that my name and identifying information may be listed on a “Disbudding VOI Database” that may be accessible by registered veterinarians.
 - Should an issuing veterinarian choose to revoke a VOI, this information may also appear on the database for the period for which the VOI was initially issued.

Veterinarian witness

Veterinarian name

Signature

Date

Individual(s) issued the VOI

Name:	Signed:	Date:
Name:	Signed:	Date:
Name:	Signed:	Date:
Name:	Signed:	Date: