

This information was up to date at the time of release to the Heads of Midwifery.  
The editorial board does not accept liability for any errors or omissions following its subsequent publication.  
Updating arrangements for the formulary should be decided upon and implemented at a local level.

## Introduction to monographs on local anaesthesia

Local anaesthetics are used in maternity care for women requiring an episiotomy or requiring perineal suturing after delivery.

They can also be used prior to urethral catheterisation.

Topical forms can be used prior to venepuncture or venous cannulation. The steering group observed that Ametop® has a slightly quicker action.

The subgroup of the steering group discussed the possible classification of the use of Lidocaine hydrochloride for cannulation as a Patient Group Direction. This medicine is however on the Midwives Exemption list. A patient group direction is therefore not legally necessary to support the arrangement for the supply and administration of this medicine to women by midwives for this particular use.

The NMC however recognises the use of this medicine for cannulation is not routine midwifery practice. Midwives should therefore use this midwives exemption medicine for this purpose only after they have secured local agreement from the maternity team, including medical staff, and only following appropriate preparation and training.

### Monographs on medicines used for local anaesthesia

Tetracaine (Ametop® gel) – Midwives Exemption

Emla® cream – Midwives Exemption

Lidocaine HCl (for perineum) – Midwives Exemption

Lidocaine HCl (for cannulation) – Midwives Exemption

Instillagel® - Midwives Exemption

### References

1. <http://www.bnf.org>