

USE OF EXPIRED MEDICAL MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING ANIMALS

Expired medical materials such as drugs and fluids may not be used on any research animal that is anesthetized, unanesthetized, or that is to recover from an anesthetic procedure. The use of such materials, except in specified circumstances, constitutes inadequate veterinary care under the Animal Welfare Act, and is considered a reportable offense to the USDA.

Accordingly, the IACUC has established the following guidelines for the use of expired medical materials:

- Except in the limited situations outlined below, it is unacceptable to use outdated anesthetics, analgesics, or emergency drugs in the animal care and use program. Examples of outdated materials that may be used under the limited circumstances described below include IV fluids solutions, non-emergency drugs (diuretics, contrast material, antibiotics), IV catheters, bandage materials, surgery gloves and suture materials.
- Expired materials may be used on anesthetized animals in terminal studies (e.g., studies from which the animal does not awaken). Anesthesia for these terminal studies, however, must be induced and maintained using current, non-expired drugs.
- All expired materials must be labeled clearly and individually to prevent inadvertent use, such as “expired – for acute use only” and clearly segregated from un-expired items.

It is the responsibility of the investigator to ensure that outdated items are not used improperly in his or her project or study.