

Guidelines for the Select Use of Expired Medical Products

This Guideline documents the NIH Intramural Research Program's recommendations for the use of expired medical products in research animals.

1. Non-survival procedures - Items that are expired or past the sterilization "use by" date:
 - a. Can be used if the packaging has not been opened: parenteral fluids, suture materials, supplies (*i.e.* gauze, needles, butterfly catheters, etc.), implantable materials or devices (*i.e.*, cardiac catheters, etc.) and surgical instruments.
 - b. Cannot be used *regardless* of the condition of the packaging: physiologically active drugs, "anesthesia, analgesia, emergency drugs and euthanasia drugs."¹

2. Survival procedures - Items that are expired or past the sterilization "use by" date:
 - a. Can be used if they are re-sterilized and their function is not compromised: surgical instruments, supplies, and implantable materials/devices.
 - b. Cannot be used: all drugs, fluids, functionally compromised devices (*i.e.* instruments, sutures, etc.).

3. Documentation - The principal investigator must describe the intended use of expired medical products in the animal study proposal, and document to the ACUC's satisfaction that the expired medical products' use will not negatively impact animal welfare or compromise the validity of the study.

References:

1. [USDA-APHIS Animal Care Policy #3, Veterinary Care, March 14, 2014](#)
2. [OLAW Frequently Asked Questions on PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. F. Animal Use and Management, Question 5, Feb. 24, 2014](#)