

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. The table provides examples of when items that are expired or past the sterilization “use by” date can or cannot be used.

	Non-Survival Procedures	Survival Procedures
Can be used	If the packaging has not been opened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parenteral fluids • Suture materials • Supplies (<i>i.e.</i> gauze, needles, butterfly catheters, etc.), implantable materials or devices (<i>i.e.</i>, cardiac catheters, etc.) • Surgical instruments 	If items are re-sterilized and their function is not compromised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical instruments • Supplies • Implantable materials and devices
Cannot be used	Regardless of the packaging’s condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physiologically active drugs • Anesthesia, analgesia, emergency drugs • Euthanasia drugs 	All drugs, fluids, and functionally compromised devices (<i>i.e.</i> instruments, sutures, etc.).

Documenting use of expired medical products: 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.

At the room level, expired products should be labelled “EXPIRED: For Non---Survival Use Only” and maintained separately from non-expired products.

References:

1. [USDA-APHIS Animal Care Policy #3, Veterinary Care, October 1, 2017.](#)
2. [OLAW Frequently Asked Questions on PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. F. Animal Use and Management, Question 5.](#)

Approved by ARAC – 11/09/11; 10/08/14; 9/26/2018