

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	<p><i>If the packaging has not been opened the following can be used with ACUC approval:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suture materials • Fluids (e.g., saline, Lactated Ringers) • Supplies (e.g., gauze, needles, butterfly catheters, etc.), implantable materials or devices (e.g., cardiac catheters, etc.) • Surgical instruments 	<p><i>The following can be used with ACUC approval:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterilized implantable materials and devices
Cannot be Used	<p><i>All pharmaceuticals and biologics including, but not limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anesthesia, analgesia, and emergency drugs • Euthanasia drugs 	All drugs, all fluids

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 Animal Care and Use Committee’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 must be labeled as expired and maintained separately from non-expired products.

References

1. [OLAW Frequently Asked Questions on PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. F. Animal Use and Management, Question 5.](#)
2. [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Eighth Edition, p. 122](#)

Approved: 11/09/11

Revised: 10/08/14; 9/26/2018; 01/26/2022