

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: intravenous fluids, sutures, supplies (*i.e.* gauze, needles, butterfly catheters), devices (*i.e.*, cardiac catheters) 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: instruments and medical devices.
 - b. Cannot be used: all drugs, fluids, devices, instruments, sutures, etc.

References

1. [USDA Animal Care Resource Guide Policies, Veterinary Care—Policy #3, 25 March 2011.](#)
2. [OLAW Frequently Asked Questions on PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, F. Animal Use and Management—Question 5. 1 April 2011.](#)