

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

POLICY STATEMENT

Use and Maintenance of Expired Medical Materials (Pharmaceuticals and Devices)

The IACUC recognizes that individual laboratories may, at times, have expired medical materials present in the lab. The IACUC, following USDA Policy #3 – Veterinary Care Policy: Expired Medical Materials (http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/policy/policy3.pdf) and OLAW guidelines http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/faqs.htm#useandmgmt_5, has established specific guidelines detailing the proper usage and proper storage and safe disposal of these recently medical materials within the lab environment.

Most medical materials (e.g., drugs, antibiotics, fluids, saline bags, disinfectant solutions, catheters, sutures, etc.) are labeled with an expiration date. This date indicates that the manufacturer does not guarantee the efficacy, sterility, safety, or stability of the product beyond the date indicated. The use of expired medical materials without justification is not considered to be acceptable veterinary practice and does not constitute adequate veterinary care as required by the regulations set forth under the *Animal Welfare Act*. If scientific value and justification is provided by the investigator, the IACUC may allow the use of expired materials and/or drugs (**other than anesthetics, analgesics, emergency drugs or drugs for euthanasia**) for use in non-survival procedures. Therefore, in keeping with federal guidelines the IACUC revised this policy and all investigators are requested to adhere to the following effective July 1, 2007:

- ▶ For survival surgeries: All pharmaceuticals and medical materials (e.g. drugs, antibiotics, fluids, saline bags, disinfectant solutions, catheters, sutures, etc.) used in survival procedures must be disposed of at the expiration date. [AWA: *Proper anesthesia, analgesia, and euthanasia are required for all such procedures. Drugs administered to relieve pain or distress and emergency drugs must not be used beyond their expiration date.*]
- ▶ For non-survival surgeries: With the exception of controlled substances and emergency, anesthetic, analgesic, or euthanasia drugs, expired medical materials may be used in terminal procedures, including non-survival surgeries, provided:
 - A “[Request to Use Expired Medical Materials or Devices in Acute Terminal Procedures in Animals Used in Research, Teaching or Instruction](#)” is submitted to the IACUC and IACUC review and approval of the request has occurred. <http://iacuc.umc.edu/Forms/Expireddruguserequest.doc> [AWA: *The attending veterinarian and the IACUC are responsible for ensuring that proposed animal activities avoid or minimize discomfort, distress, and pain to the animal. These*

responsibilities cannot be met unless the veterinarian and the IACUC maintain control over the use of expired medical materials.]

- Materials/Devices are within 6 months of their stated expiration date and clearly marked as “EXPIRED”
- Materials/Devices marked “EXPIRED” are placed in a separate, well marked (for non-survival use only) container. The container should be kept in a location distant from the drugs within date.
- The contents of the “expired material container” are reviewed periodically (e.g. prior to the semi-annual lab inspection), and expired materials exceeding 6 months of their expiration date must be disposed of in the proper manner. (*For disposal information Contact the Biological/Chemical Safety Officer – ext. 4-1981*) No expired fluids should be used that appear discolored or contain a precipitant.
- The use of expired medical materials does not adversely affect the animals’ well-being or compromise the validity of the scientific study.
- Proper anesthesia, analgesia, and euthanasia are employed for all such procedures.

IACUC Approved 6/19/07

(supersedes “Use and Maintenance of Recently Expired Drugs in Individual Laboratories”, 4/19/05)