

University of Vermont

Approved by IACUC – 01/23/06

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Use of Expired Medical Materials Policy and Guidelines

Background

According to USDA Animal Care Resource Guide Policy on the use of expired medical materials (Policy #3) is as follows:

The use of expired medical materials (e.g., drugs, fluids, sutures, anesthetics, sedatives, or analgesics) during any survival surgical procedure on a regulated species is not considered acceptable veterinary practice and therefore not consistent with adequate veterinary care as required by the regulations promulgated under the Animal Welfare Act.

Research, Teaching, and Testing Acute Terminal Procedures:

Expired medical materials except analgesics, sedatives anesthetics, and euthanasia solutions may be used in acute terminal procedures where an animal is anesthetized during the study and euthanized without recovery if such use does not adversely affect the animal's well-being or compromise the validity of the scientific study.

Facilities permitting the use of expired medical materials in acute terminal procedures should have a policy on the use, storage, and disposal of such materials which is in accordance with all relevant institutional, local, state, and federal requirements where applicable; and/or require investigators to describe the intended use in the animal study proposal.

The following guidelines concerning the use of expired medical material, developed by the *Office of Animal Care Management* and the IACUC at the University of Vermont, are based on the above USDA policy.

Guidelines

FOR SURVIVAL PROCEDURES:

No expired drugs or materials may be used in survival surgeries. All expired controlled substances must be returned to the Office of Animal Care Management with the drug log sheets.

Example: An item stamped "12/2014" may be used through December 31, 2014. It is outdated January 1, 2015. Dispose of the outdated items appropriately. Investigators are responsible for ensuring that all drugs and medical materials used in their laboratories are within the expiration date. All drug preparations must be labeled with the date of preparation and the earliest expiration date of the component drugs. All expired supplies must be labeled "Expired-Do No Use" and stored separately from non-expired materials if immediate disposal is not possible. Justification for use of expired medical materials is required in each protocol.

FOR NON-SURVIVAL PROCEDURES:

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:

1. The use of expired medical materials is explicitly stated in the IACUC protocol and approval to use such materials has been granted by the IACUC. Items #4 and #5 (below) must be addressed in the IACUC protocol.

2. Materials are marked as "Expired – Use ONLY in TERMINAL Procedures."
3. Materials are stored in a different location (cabinet, drawer, etc.) than materials used for survival procedures.
4. The use of expired medical materials does not adversely affect the animal's well-being or compromise the validity of the scientific study.
5. Proper anesthesia, analgesia, and euthanasia are employed for all such procedures.

IDENTIFICATION AND REMOVAL OF EXPIRED MEDICAL MATERIALS:

The IACUC recommends that each laboratory establish a procedure to facilitate the identification and removal of expired drugs and other medical materials used for research involving animals. This may take the form of a drug log, signed by a member of the laboratory each month, indicating that they have checked for and discarded, or set aside for disposal, any expired drugs or other medical materials from their laboratory. The IACUC reserves the right to make this recommendation a requirement if expired drugs or other medical materials are repeatedly identified in a particular laboratory.