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| seal5  **University of Massachusetts Amherst**  **Animal Care Services** | |
| **IACUC POLICIES FOR ANIMAL RESEARCH AT UMA** | *issued:* **27 April 2017**  *revised:* **2 June 2021** |
| *title:* Guidelines for Determining Expiration Dates for Materials used in Animals | *number of pages:* **2** |

**BACKGROUND**

In order to comply with federal regulations, all materials for use in live animals must be marked with an expiration date.

Materials without a manufacturer expiration date should be labeled with a purchase date. The researcher should then determine the stability of the drug to predict shelf life. This information can generally be obtained from the manufacturer. If stability if not know, the product should not be used beyond one year from purchase date.

**GUIDANCE**

If you are using materials that will not be used frequently, it is best to inquire about the current expiration date of the product being distributed as well as to consider ordering smaller quantities. Labs should inspect their supplies regularly in order to identify and discard expired medications and supplies.

Follow the manufacturer recommendations printed for expiration date and storage requirements.

**STERILE SUPPLIES**

Prepackaged supplies such as suture materials, surgical blades, surgical gloves, syringes, needles, etc. are sold with an expiration date. These materials cannot be used after the date and must be discarded.

Sterilized instruments should be marked with the date of sterilization. They should also be marked with a “process indicator” such as autoclave tape and should include a sterilization indicator within the package. Cloth or paper wrapped instruments have a shelf life of one month. Plastic wrapped or peel packs have a shelf life of 6 months.

**MIXTURES AND NON-MANUFACTURED DRUGS**

If refrigerated, multi-dose containers expire 30 days after opening.

If a drug is transferred unchanged into a sealed, sterile container, it maintains its original expiration date. Frozen aliquots can be kept indefinitely, but have a 30 day shelf life once thawed.

If a drug is diluted or mixed and put into a sterile, sealed containing using sterile technique, it expires in 30 days.

**Process for removal:**

Expired and mislabeled or unlabeled items are not allowed in the facility.

Please dispose of or properly label all items with: PI, contents and expiration date (at a minimum month and year).

If ACS or IACUC finds expired or mislabeled items they will be placed in a designated bin within the room.

**Items in bins will be removed every 2 weeks**