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Policy: Use of Expired Medical Materials

It is the policy of the Oregon State University’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to require identification and removal of expired medical materials on or before the expiration date.

Drugs administered for anesthesia, analgesia, or euthanasia agents, and any other agent intended to relieve pain, discomfort, or distress or to provide emergency veterinary care must NEVER be used beyond their expiration date.

Exceptions for the use of other medical materials (e.g. suture, catheters, new/sealed drugs, fluids, etc.) may be permissible for terminal/acute studies or teaching exercises, if their use does not adversely affect the animal’s well-being or compromise the validity of the scientific study. Proposed exceptions of expired medical material use in live animals must be described and approved by the IACUC in an ACUP (or related amendment) before any such use can occur.

All expired materials approved for such use must be labeled appropriately (e.g. “For Terminal Use Only”) and clearly segregated from other medical materials used in live animals.

Identification and removal of expired medical materials:

Each laboratory or animal facility should establish a procedure to facilitate the identification and removal of expired drugs and other medical materials used for live animal activities. Regularly updating a log of materials, locations, and expiration dates, and disposing of expired materials promptly, is highly recommended. Expired materials pending disposal must be labeled appropriately (“EXPIRED, Do Not Use”, “X” marked across the label) and clearly segregated from other medical materials used in live animals.

Expired drugs and empty drug and vaccine containers may be disposed of by requesting an EH&S waste pickup. Request forms can be found [here](#).

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Care [Policy #3](#), updated in March 2014, provides specific guidance on the use of expired medical materials. The Office for Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) provides similar guidance in [FAQ F.5](#).