ANIMAL EYE CONSULTANTS OF IOWA

Animal Eye Consultants of Iowa *Instituti* *mittee*	
Policy #11	**"Expired Drugs and Medical Materials"**
Approval Date: 9/27/2023 (Replacing Version 8/26/2020)	

A. Purpose

To define the policy regarding expired drugs and medical materials.

B. Background

Per the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), the use of expired drugs (anesthetics, analgesics, tranquilizers, euthanasia drugs, and antimicrobials) and expired medical materials (e.g., suture material, staples, needles, syringes, etc.), is not acceptable veterinary care. For **acute terminal procedures** (animals are anesthetized throughout the procedure and euthanized without recovery), the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) does not oppose the use of expired medical materials if their use does not adversely affect the animal's well-being or compromise the validity of the scientific study.

C. Policy

It is the IACUC policy to apply the above standards to all vertebrate and cephalopod research and teaching animals covered under AEC Animal Care and Use Program,

regardless of whether or not they are covered under the USDA Animal Welfare Act.

<u>To further clarify:</u>

- Expired anesthetics, analgesics, tranquilizers, euthanasia solutions, emergency drugs, and antimicrobials and other drugs **cannot** be used in live animals under any circumstances.

- Expired drugs must be marked as expired, segregated in an appropriate container (e.g., Ziploc bag or box) and arrangements should be made for timely and proper disposal (e.g., schedule EH&S pick-up). Expired controlled substances must remain in the dedicated storage location but must be segregated as described above to prevent potential use.
- Disposal of controlled substances must follow the reverse distribution procedure as per the AEC Hiawatha EH&S, the University?s DEA reverse distributor.
- Expired medical materials (e.g., suture material, staples, catheters) may be used in **acute terminal** studies if their use does not adversely affect the animal's well-being or compromise the validity of the scientific study. These must be labeled as expired/terminal use only and separated to avoid accidental use in survival procedures.
- The facility must dispose of expired medical materials or segregate them in an appropriately labeled, physically separate location from non-expired medical materials.
- Note: If drugs or medical materials have an expiration date noting only a month and year, the expiration is the last day of the month indicated.
- Expired drugs and medical materials that are not labeled and segregated is one of the most common deficiencies identified on IACUC semi-annual site visit.
- Uncontaminated multi-dose vials must be stored according to manufacturer's recommendations and can be used up to the manufacturer's expiration date provided that they show no signs of contamination. Use a new, sterile needle for each entry into the container. Use should be discontinued if the rubber stopper appears damaged, solution is discolored or there are other signs of contamination.

D. Monitoring

Research and teaching laboratories and facilities should establish a routine of checking expiration dates on drugs and medical material and properly labeling, segregating and discarding them. Facilities with a large volume of material should consider using a color code system that will help easily highlight the expiration date and prevent accidental use of expired drugs. In this system each drug is labeled using a colored sticker which represents the year the item will expire with the month written on the sticker. For example, a blue sticker can be used to represent 2023 and when labeled with a 7 it would indicate that this item expires July 31, 2023. This is much easier to see than

finding the expiration date in small print on the bottle and can be seen quickly when scanning through the inventory. Regardless of what system is used, monitoring should be frequent enough to ensure expired drugs are not being used. See below for an example of a color dot being used to better highlight expiration date.



E. Regulations & Guidelines

1. USDA Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations.

2. USDA Animal Welfare Inspection Guide section 6-17.

3. Health Research Extension Act of 1985 and Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. https://olaw.nih.gov/

4. National Research Council, 2011. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. 8th Edition. The National Academies Press, Washington, DC.