

Procedure: IACUC-29  
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**UC Davis  
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)**

**Title: *Expired Drugs and Medical Materials***

**I. Purpose:**

To define the policy regarding the use of expired drugs and medical materials.

**II. 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 antibiotics), is not consistent with acceptable veterinary care. Use of other expired drugs and materials must not occur unless the PI provides documentation to the IACUC verifying efficacy and rationale for use. For acute terminal procedures, USDA-APHIS (Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service) and OLAW do not oppose the use of expired medical materials (e.g., suture material, staples) if their use does not adversely affect the animal's well-being or compromise the validity of the scientific study.

**III. Policy:**

It is the IACUC policy to apply the above standards to all vertebrate research and teaching animals covered under UC Davis Animal Care and Use Protocols, *regardless of whether or not they are covered under the USDA Animal Welfare Act or federal funding.* To further clarify:

- A. Expired anesthetics, analgesics, tranquilizers, euthanasia solutions, emergency drugs, and antibiotics cannot be used in live vertebrate animals under any circumstances.
- B. Expired drugs must be segregated in an appropriately labeled container or a physically separate location from non-expired drugs and arrangements must be made for timely and proper disposal. Expired drugs must be labeled "not for animal use".
- C. Expired medical materials (e.g., suture material, staples) and agents not included in section A (e.g., saline, Lactated Ringers Solution, fluids) 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.

- D. The facility must dispose of medical materials or segregate them in an appropriately labeled, physically separate location from non-expired medical materials. All expired materials must be labeled "for terminal use only".
- E. 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.

If you have questions about an expired medical materials and their use, please contact Campus Veterinary Services at (530) 752-0514 or [lahc@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lahc@ucdavis.edu).

#### IV. **Resources:**

1. Animal Welfare Inspection Guide  
[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_welfare/downloads/Animal-Care-Inspection-Guide.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/Animal-Care-Inspection-Guide.pdf)
2. Animal Welfare Act and Regulations  
<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/animal-welfare-act>
3. ILAR, Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals  
<http://nap.edu/12910>
3. OLAW FAQs - September 15, 2021  
<https://olaw.nih.gov/faqs/#/guidance/faqs>
4. IACUC-53 "Guidelines for Use of Anesthetic Cocktails and Diluted Drugs in Laboratory Animals"  
<https://research.ucdavis.edu/wp-content/uploads/IACUC-53.pdf>