

Wm. S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital
VA IACUC Policy #24-13

The use of Expired Medical Materials in Animals

Expired medical materials (e.g. drugs, fluids, suture material, etc.) cannot be used for any survival procedure performed on live vertebrate animals. Use of such materials is considered inadequate veterinary care as required by regulations set forth under the Animal Welfare Act.

Under no circumstance can expired anesthesia, analgesia, euthanasia, or emergency drugs be used in any vertebrate animal.

Role of the Investigator

Investigators are responsible for ensuring that all drugs and medical materials used in their laboratories are within the expiration date. All drugs and medical materials must be labeled with an expiration date. No expired materials can be used.

Role of the Veterinary Staff and IACUC

The Attending Veterinarian and the IACUC are responsible for ensuring that proposed animal activities avoid or minimize discomfort, distress, and pain to the animal. On semiannual inspections and during monthly walk-thru inspections with the VMC, the inspection team will determine if expired medical materials are being kept in an appropriate manner. Expired medical material deemed not to be stored or labeled appropriately may be confiscated.

Questions: Any questions on this policy should be directed to the VA Research Office, 280-7007.

References:

USDA Animal Care Policy Manual; Policy #3, March 25, 2011.

Effective Date: Drafted and revised for the 11/09/2009 IACUC meeting. Later reviews and approvals: 11/22/2010, 7/11/2011, 11/07/12, & 11/06/13.