







Tips for Preventing Expired Drugs and Medical Materials

Federal regulations and guidelines prohibit the use of expired drugs and medical materials on live animals. The following tips can help your lab stay in compliance with this requirement.

- Use the color code system: apply a colored dot sticker to each item with an expiration date. Each color corresponds to a different year and the month of expiration is written in the center. This way you can spot the expiration date of items at a glance. See the RARC website for details:
www.rarc.wisc.edu/tools_and_guides/drugs/expired_drugs.html
- Apply the dot stickers when new drugs/materials arrive. Consider having one lab member in charge of this task.
- Assign one person to check for expiration dates at the end of each month. Use calendars, notes, electronic reminders, etc. as reminders to complete this task every month.
- Centralize all your drugs and materials that expire in one location or limit the number of locations materials are kept.
- Place a dot sticker with the color that represents the next material that is going to expire on the outside of the drawer, container, etc. where the materials are stored. Make sure to keep this up to date when new supplies are added.
- When you find expired drugs or materials, dispose of them (see below) or place them in a separate location away from the in-date materials. Label the bottle, box, or drawer “EXPIRED DO NOT USE ON LIVE ANIMALS” *
 - For expired powders, liquids, capsules, gels, ointments, etc. that are NOT controlled substances, complete the chemical disposal form at the UW Chemical Safety website at <http://www.ehs.wisc.edu/chemicaldisposalpickup.htm> and they will pick up your items.
 - For disposal of expired controlled drugs, contact APAS@rarc.wisc.edu for instructions.
 - For expired syringes, scalpel blades, sutures, catheters and other sharps, place them in a red sharps container*.
 - For expired sterilized gauze, gloves, bandages, other non-sharps, and non-pharmaceutical items, throw them in the trash*.
 - Consult Chemical Safety’s Disposal Services webpage at <https://ehs.wisc.edu/disposal-services/> for more information.
- Contact pharmacy@rarc.wisc.edu for a color-coded dot system starter kit, controlled substance guidance, or helpful advice on managing your drug and medical materials inventory.



This bottle expires at the end of March 2020

	2017
	2018
	2019
	2020
	2021
	2022

*You may use expired items (**except** anesthetics, analgesics, rescue or euthanasia drugs) for terminal procedures only. These items must be segregated from in-date drugs and labeled “for terminal use only”.