

*University of Louisville*  
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee  
***Policies and Procedures***

## **Use of Pharmaceutical-Grade Medications and Outdated Drugs/Supplies**

**Policy:** Pharmaceutical grade medications must be used whenever they are available, including for non-survival procedures or euthanasia. The use of expired medical materials such as drugs, intravenous fluids, and supplies is prohibited unless specifically approved by the IACUC. Expiration dates on such materials must be monitored, and materials disposed of appropriately to avoid their accidental use.

**Rationale:** The use of expired medical materials in animal research is not considered to be acceptable veterinary practice as required by the PHS Policy and Animal Welfare regulations, because manufacturer's guarantees do not extend to expired materials. Therefore, it should be considered a scientific as well as veterinary care imperative to use pharmaceutical-grade material and only while "in-date."

**Procedures, Guidelines, and Exceptions:**

**Medications (Anesthetics, analgesics, therapeutic agents, etc.):**

1. Pharmaceutical grade medications must be used whenever they are available, including for non-survival procedures and euthanasia.
2. Exceptions for use of non-pharmaceutical grade (*i.e.*, chemical-grade) medications may be allowed after review and approval by the IACUC. Requests for exceptions must be submitted in writing as a part of an approved *Proposal*. Such requests must include a scientific rationale and a description of ensuring sterility. Cost-savings alone is not an adequate justification for using non-pharmaceutical grade medications.
3. Expired medications used to support surgical procedures, including anesthetics, analgesics, or agents used in peri-operative care (*e.g.*, heparin), cannot be used, even for non-survival procedures. Other expired medications, such as experimental therapeutic agents and other test substances, can only be used with specific IACUC approval.
4. Special precautions and procedures for disposal of expired DEA-controlled substances must be followed as per DEHS policies.

**Materials (fluids, sutures, catheters, etc.):**

1. The use of expired medical materials (fluids, sutures, catheters and other supplies) in animal research is not considered acceptable veterinary practice as defined by the Animal Welfare regulations.
2. Exceptions may be granted for use of such materials for *non-survival* procedures only. Use of such materials must be approved by the IACUC. If such usage is approved by the IACUC, expired supplies must be conspicuously labeled (*e.g.*, "for acute use only") and stored in a physically separate location from non-expired materials to avoid accidental use in survival procedures.
3. Exceptions to the use of expired medical materials may be granted by the IACUC on a case-by-case basis. Requests for exceptions must be submitted in writing as a part of an approved *Proposal*.

**Adopted:** October 15, 1998

**Reviewed/Revised:** March 15, 2007