

# **UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN UCUCA POLICY ON THE USE OF EXPIRED MEDICAL MATERIALS AND NON-PHARMACEUTICAL- GRADE COMPOUNDS**

According to the USDA's Animal Care Policy #3, "Veterinary Care", and the University Committee on Use and Care of Animals (UCUCA), the use of expired medical materials such as drugs, fluids, or sutures is not considered to be acceptable veterinary practice for recovery procedures. Drugs administered to relieve pain or distress (i.e., anesthetic, analgesic, and euthanasia agents) cannot be used for **any** experimental or veterinary procedure once they are past the expiration date.

However, expired medical materials (e.g., suture, fluids, etc.) can be used for non-survival procedures, if their usage does not adversely affect the animal's well-being or compromise the validity of the scientific study. This **does not** include agents used for anesthesia, analgesia and euthanasia. Methods of proper anesthesia, analgesia, and euthanasia are required for all recovery and non-recovery procedures. Departments and research laboratories with expired medical materials must either properly dispose of all such materials, or segregate them in an appropriately labeled ("acute use only") cabinet that is physically separated from non-expired medical materials.

Principal investigators are expected to use pharmaceutical-grade medications for all species whenever possible. It is acceptable to use non-pharmaceutical-grade materials in non-survival procedures as long as it does not affect the animal's well-being or compromise the validity of the study. The use of non-pharmaceutical-grade chemical compounds *or vehicles* in USDA-regulated animals is only permitted following review and approval by the UCUCA. Reasons for such exceptions can include scientific necessity or non-availability of an acceptable veterinary or human pharmaceutical-grade product. Cost savings alone are not an adequate justification for using non-pharmaceutical-grade compounds in animals.

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