

NU – IACUC

POLICY

Northeastern University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Expired Drugs, Medication, and Materials

The NU-IACUC along with the USDA and other agencies consider the use of expired drugs, medications, and materials in or on research animals to be in violation of adequate veterinary care. Medications, diets, IV solutions, drugs, hyper-alimentation solutions, *etc.* all have an acceptable time frame for use. Once an agent has passed the date of expiration issued by the manufacturer, the agent may undergo reduced efficacy, safety, or the production of harmful byproducts (i.e. rancidity in hyper-alimentation solutions). These, in turn, may introduce undesirable variables into controlled research studies. Therefore, all expired materials must be discarded properly and safely (consult with the DLAM).

During the semi-annual inspections conducted by the NU-IACUC, expiration dates of various materials used in the research animals are checked to ensure that they are in date. Any drug, medication, or material that is found out of date is removed and the Principle Investigator is informed in a letter from the NU-IACUC of this problem.

No expired materials may be used in or on animals unless they are to be used for specific scientific purposes outlined in the protocol and approved by the IACUC. Included in this description must be assurance that animal welfare standards will be maintained; that is, that animals will not suffer as a result of the use of these materials.

Approved: