

Subject:	Expired Medical Materials Policy
Source	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
Effective Date	9/14/2026
Replaces:	10/09/2023
Applies to:	Personnel involved in Research or Teaching involving animals.
Reference:	Animal Welfare Act; PHS Policy on Humane Care & Use of Laboratory Animals. Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals

Introduction

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) provides oversight of the institution's animal care and use program, ensuring compliance with federally mandated regulations, ethical standards, and institutional policies governing the humane use of animals in research and teaching at the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz. The IACUC evaluates and reviews all activities related to the care and use of animals and determines if the proposed activities are in accordance with regulations.

Policy Statement

This policy clarifies when the use of expired medical materials is allowed and when it is not in animal experiments. Examples of medical materials include drugs, fluids, sutures, catheters, anesthetics, and analgesics.

- Expired medical materials are **prohibited** for use in any survival procedure.
- Expired analgesics, anesthetics, and euthanasia solution are **prohibited** under any circumstances.
- Expired medical materials, **except** for analgesics, anesthetics, and euthanasia solutions, are allowed in acute terminal procedures, provided that the expired medical materials must not adversely affect the animal's well-being or the experimental results of the study.
 - Storage of expired medical materials must be appropriately and clearly labeled and in a physically separate location from non-expired materials to prevent accidental use.
 - At a minimum, the physical location of the materials should be clearly labeled as "Expired Medical Materials – Acute Use Only."
 - When storing larger equipment, each item should be labeled.
 - For smaller materials, such as needles or syringes within a box, the box can be labeled.
 - All other expired medical materials should be discarded appropriately.
- Vials and sterile fluid bags that have been opened may expire earlier than the expiration date posted on the bag/bottle.
 - A 30-day limit for opened/punctured items is observed by the IACUC unless a justification is provided to the IACUC.
 - The date the material was opened/punctured must be written on the vial/bag/container, and an expiration date should also be documented.

Compliance and Accountability

In accordance with regulatory requirements, failure to comply with this policy will result in a review by the IACUC. Depending on the severity of the violation, you may be required to complete additional training, and your privileges to conduct animal research at CU Denver | Anschutz may be suspended or completely revoked.

If your research privileges are suspended, your funding agency (e.g., NIH) and relevant regulatory agencies (e.g., USDA) may be informed about your violation of federal and/or local policies regarding the humane use of animals. This notification will have a direct impact on your ongoing funding for animal-related research.