

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL
PHARMACY SERVICES**

SECTION: **DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY SERVICES**

SUBJECT: **EXPIRATION DATES**

CODE: 1.45.0
DATE: 12/21/84
REVISED: 8/2/2017, 4/19/22
APPROVED: Thinh Tran, Pharm. D.
MEC APPROVED: 12/16/09
PAGES: 1 of 3

POLICY

Expiration dates will be indicated on all medicinals issued by the Inpatient Pharmacy as required by State and Federal regulations.

PROCEDURE

1. All medications or nutritional or dietary supplement product shall bear an expiration date.
2. If the expiration date is listed as the month and year, the date of expiration becomes effective on the last day of the month listed.

Example: January 1991 means January 31, 1991

3. Injectable Medications

- a. Any single-dose container of sterile drug product or compounded sterile drug product other than an ampule, such as a bag, bottle syringe or vial, shall be used in its entirety or its remaining contents discarded within the following time limit, depending on the environment:
 - i. When opened or needle punctured in an environment with air quality worse than ISO Class 5, to be used within one hour. Expiration date and time must be placed on the bag, bottle, syringe or vial.
 - ii. When opened or needle punctured in an environment with air quality ISO Class 5 or better air quality, to be used within six hours. Expiration date and time must be placed on the bag, bottle, syringe or vial.
 - iii. Single-dose ampules are for immediate use only, and once opened or needle-punctured shall not be stored for any period.
- b. Multi-dose medications for intravenous, intramuscular, intra-articular or subcutaneous use will have a 28-day expiration date and the expiration date will be placed on the multi-dose container by the individual who first opened the vial. Exceptions to the 28-day expiration date are:
 - i. A change in solution color.
 - ii. Visible particulate matter in the vial.
 - iii. Improper storage, e.g., refrigerated item left out of refrigerator.
 - iv. Contamination or possible contamination.
 - v. Stability data states otherwise.
 - vi. The manufacturer or pharmacy label indicates otherwise.
 - vii. If the above occur, the medication is considered unsuitable for use and should be discarded.

***Note, Insulins taken out of the refrigerator, and stored at room temperature, will be given 28 days; regardless if it is opened or not.*

- c. Pharmacy IV medications compounded in an environment with air quality ISO Class 5 or better will be given a 12 hour Beyond Use Date (BUD) unless stability data or manufacture information states differently. A label stating "Do Not Start After Date: ___ Time ___" will be placed, on the patient's

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medication label, on all dispensed compounded IV medications.

- d. Manufacturer pre-mixed medications and or IVPB minibags (or hookups) will be labeled with the manufacture recommended expiration date.
4. Oral medications
 - a. Unit Dose Packaging
 - i. Tablets, capsules, and oral liquids will have an expiration date of one year **or** the manufacturer's expiration date, whichever is less unless stability data or the manufacturer's labeling indicates otherwise.
 - b. Repackaging of oral liquids will have an expiration date of one year or the manufacturer's expiration date, whichever is less unless stability data or the manufacturer's labeling indicates otherwise.
 - c. Opened bulk multi-dose oral solids and solutions, in the original manufacture container, will retain the manufacturer's expiration date if stored appropriately, unless stability data or the manufacturer's label indicates otherwise.
 5. External/Topical medications
 - a. Repackaging of external/topical use liquids, ointments and creams will have an expiration date of one year or the manufacturer's expiration date, whichever is less unless stability data or the manufacturer's labeling indicates otherwise.
 - b. Opened bulk multi-dose external/topical liquids, ointments, creams and eye drops, in the original manufacture container, will retain the manufacturer's expiration date if stored appropriately, unless stability data or the manufacturer's label indicates otherwise.
 6. Irrigation solutions (Normal Saline, Sterile Water and Acetic Acid) are for single use only. Unused portions will be discarded after use; as per manufacture recommendation.
 7. Prescription labels – Pharmacists will assure that there is an expiration date on each prescription label as well as the initials of the technician filling and the pharmacist checking, prior to dispensing.
 8. Compounding of medications, on the nursing unit by nursing should be performed only in an emergent situation.
 - a. It will be compounded in accordance with directions supplied by the pharmacy or the manufacturer.
 - b. Nurse compounded IV medications will labeled for “immediate use only” and administration shall begin no later than one hour following the start of the compounding process. Unless the “immediate use” preparation is immediately and completely administered or witnessed by the preparer the preparation shall be labeled with a nurse-prepared labeled with the following information:
 - i. Patient identification information
 - ii. Name of medication and solution
 - iii. Dosage or strength per unit volume.
 - iv. Expiration date; exact one-hour beyond use date and time.
 - v. Nurse's name or initials.