

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO
INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE**

**Policy for the Use of Non-Pharmaceutical Grade Medications in
Research Animals**

Investigators are expected to use pharmaceutical grade medications whenever they are available, even in acute procedures. Non-pharmaceutical grade chemical compounds should only be used in animals after specific review and approval by the IACUC for reasons such as 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.

The use of non-pharmaceutical grade medications in vertebrate species must be explicitly detailed in the IACUC protocol and IACUC approval gained prior to use of the drug. Adequate labeling of any prepared compounds is required including the name of the medication, the date the product is mixed, and expiration date of reconstituted medication(s). Documentation of methods used to maintain sterility, proper shelf life of prepared compounds and proper storage must be maintained by the lab. Assistance in finding acceptable alternatives to non-pharmaceutical grade medications is available from the veterinary staff of the Animal Care Program, extension 46064.