

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

**Use of Expired Medical Materials in Research Animals**

The USDA Policy states the use of expired materials without justification is considered inadequate veterinary care (9 CFR, Part 3, Section 3.110). Since it is recognized that in some specific situations there may be a rationale to use expired materials, the IACUC has established the following guidelines for the conditional use of expired medical products.

Survival Studies: Expired medical materials may not be used on animals in survival studies. Requested exceptions to this policy must be included in the animal use protocol, along with the scientific justification for the use of expired materials. IACUC approval must be granted prior to use. It is never acceptable to use outdated anesthetics, analgesics, antibiotics or emergency drugs in any case.

Non-Survival Studies: Expired medical materials such as drugs, fluids and sutures may only be used on anesthetized research animals and the animals may not recover from the anesthetic procedure. Anesthesia for these terminal studies must be induced and maintained using current, non-expired drugs.

All expired materials must be clearly and individually labeled as "Expired - for acute use only" and kept together in a labeled area physically separate from all other medical materials and drugs.