



INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE  
AND USE COMMITTEE

## **IACUC POLICY # 24**

### **The Use of Expired Material and Non-Pharmaceutical Grade Drugs**

The use of expired medical materials such as drugs, fluids, or sutures on vertebrate animals is not considered to be acceptable veterinary practice and does not constitute adequate veterinary care as required by the regulations (Animal Welfare Act). All expired medical materials must either be disposed of or segregated into an appropriately labeled, physically separate location from non-expired medical materials.

For acute terminal procedures, expired medical materials may be used if their use does not adversely affect the animal's well-being or compromise the validity of the scientific study. Proper anesthesia, analgesia, and euthanasia are required for all such procedures. Drugs administered to relieve pain or distress and emergency drugs must not be used beyond their expiration date.

Pharmaceutical-grade medications are to be used whenever they are available, even in acute procedures. Non-pharmaceutical-grade chemical compounds should only be used in vertebrate 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 vertebrate animals.