

Common Expiration Dates for Controlled Substances



Controlled substances are often used in animal research for anesthesia and pain management. Following dosing guidelines and abiding by expiration dates are two practices critical to ensuring proper and humane care. Deviating from these practices, for example, by administering expired controlled substances, is a serious and reportable animal welfare concern that can negatively impact a registrant's good standing with the IACUC and licensing agencies.

Authorized users are reminded to incorporate the following practices when working with controlled substances in animal research:

- Review RARC guidelines for dosing and expiration dates for dilutions
 - [Anesthetic & Analgesic Dilution & Dosing Recommendations for Mice](#)
 - [Anesthetic & Analgesic Dilution & Dosing Recommendations for Rats](#)
- Record the parent vial's expiration date on the Single Use Log
- Use the table below to determine the expiration date of an aliquot or dilution
- Record that expiration date in 3 places:
 1. On the Vial,
 2. On the Dilution Usage Log
 3. In your surgery notes
- **Most importantly, review the expiration date every time before starting work!**

Controlled Substance	Expiration Date/Use by Date
Ketamine/xylazine cocktails	<u>Within 6 months</u> from the date of creation, unless any component has an earlier expiration date.
All other cocktails or dilutions	<u>Within 1 month</u> from the date of creation, unless any component has an earlier expiration date.
EthiqXR (undiluted)	<u>Within 90 days</u> of opening or before the manufacturer expiration date, whichever comes first.
Aliquots of undiluted C.S.	Keep the same expiration date that is printed on the parent vial from the manufacturer.

What can you do if your dilution cocktail is expired? If you find a vial of expired materials, do not use it! Take the following steps:

- First, label the vial directly as "Expired" and tape over the lid of the vial.
- Next, separate that vial within your C.S. storage from non-expired drugs. Use a ziplock bag or empty slide box to segregate expired materials. Label the bag or box as "**Expired, Do Not Use**".
- Have the Registrant or Supervisor of C.S. Activity return the expired materials to the Main Stock Storage location.
- Contact EHS, 646-962-7233 or ehs@med.cornell.edu to discuss disposal of expired materials. Never discard vials that contain expired controlled substances.



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