

LOCATE

Every drug has an expiry date!

Regularly review inventory for expired drugs. Consider the use of automated reminders and notifications on the facility schedule.

Identify, remove, and dispose expired drugs

CALENDAR

Remove expired drugs from use.



Dispose of expired drugs promptly and safely. Track and document the disposal of drugs.

For staff to easily identify expired or expiring soon drugs, place labels on the drug container.



QUESTIONS?

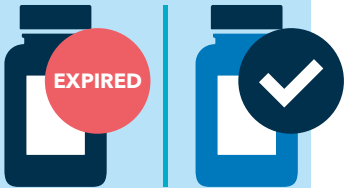
Please contact the College's Practice Advisory Service:
(519) 824-5600 Ext. 2401 or 1 (800) 424-2856
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TIP SHEET

Every drug has an expiry date

Do not donate or dispense expired drugs:



Expired drugs are separate from effective and safe drugs.



Dispose of expired drugs safely and appropriately.

1 Review drug inventory:

- All drugs have an expiry date or beyond use date.
- Health Canada requires manufacturers of drugs to put an expiry date on the drug label. This indicates the last date a drug has been deemed to maintain its labelled potency, purity, and physical characteristics. An expired drug may not be an effective or safe drug.
- Put protocols in place to identify, remove and dispose of expired drugs from inventory. This will prevent the administration or dispensing of expired drugs to patients, potentially causing them harm.

2 Identify, remove, and dispose expired drugs:

- Set a schedule for staff to regularly review inventory for expired drugs. Consider the use of automated reminders and notifications.
- Identify drugs that are soon to expire or have expired. For example, place stickers or labels on the expired drugs that are easily identifiable to all staff.
- Remove expired drugs from use.
- Dispose of expired drugs promptly.
- Track and document the disposal of drugs.

3 Do not dispense expired drugs:

- Veterinarians dispense drugs that are not past their expiry dates or that will not expire before the intended course of therapy has ended to maintain patient safety and efficacy of treatment.
- When dispensing a compounded drug, a beyond use date is to be provided. A beyond use date is the date after which a compounded preparation should not be used based on known stability data. If a veterinarian purchases a compounded drug from a compounding pharmacy, the pharmacy will provide a beyond use date.

Further information:

1. Dispensing a Drug – Professional Practice Standard
2. Dispensing a Drug – A Guide to the Standard
3. Management and Disposal of Controlled Drugs – Professional Practice Standard
4. Management and Disposal of Controlled Drugs – A Guide to the Standard
5. Use of Compounded Drugs in Veterinary Practice – Professional Practice Standard
6. Use of Compounded Drugs in Veterinary Practice – A Guide to the Standard
7. Accreditation Standards for Veterinary Facilities in Ontario