Use of Expired Pharmaceuticals in Animal Research

Starting this fall, the IACUC will expand their checklist as they conduct their semi-annual inspections of facilities and laboratories where procedures are performed. They will be looking for expired supplies in accordance with the following information from the “Frequently Asked Questions” section of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

**Question:** May investigators use expired pharmaceuticals, biologics, and supplies in animals?

**Answer:** The use of expired pharmaceuticals, biologics, and supplies is not consistent with acceptable veterinary practice or adequate veterinary care. Euthanasia, anesthesia and analgesia agents should not be used beyond their expiration date, even if a procedure is terminal.

Other expired materials should not be used unless the manufacturer verifies efficacy beyond the expiration date, or the investigator is able to document to the satisfaction of the IACUC that such use would not negatively impact animal welfare or compromise the validity of the study. The veterinarian and IACUC must maintain control over the use of expired medical materials in order to meet their responsibilities to avoid or minimize discomfort, pain or distress to animals.

More information can be found at [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/faqs.htm#useandmgmt_5](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/faqs.htm#useandmgmt_5).

Research Participant Compensation

IRS regulations require that compensation to research participants be documented and that compensation in excess of $75 per participant be reported. So, a PI’s proposal to compensate research participants by making charitable donations of less than $75 in their names, at first, seemed feasible in spite of the extra paperwork required.

However, the IRB learned that Iowa State University does not allow charitable donations to be paid in lieu of compensation to research participants for two main reasons. First of all, the IRS perceives this practice as circumventing taxes and the reporting of taxable income. Second, when budgets are submitted to funding sponsors, these costs are identified as payments to research participants. Re-classifying them as charitable donations later creates allowability issues for our internal auditors.

Compliance Tip Corner

When you provide employees with individual copies of the compliance committee-approved protocol or make the protocol available on a lab computer or in a lab notebook, you are providing them with a resource that will help ensure increased compliance. Also, incidents of inadvertent non-compliance are less likely to occur when all employees know which procedures have been approved.

This is especially good practice for investigators who house animals or perform procedures in their laboratories because the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) will begin checking the accessibility of approved protocols during facility inspections this fall.