



POLICY

TITLE:	Use of Sterile Materials on Research Animals
Policy Number:	2014-047
Responsible Department:	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
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Approval Date:	10/8/14
Reviewed:	10/11/17; 6/10/2020 (Referred PI to mfr. packaging re storage & exp. Dates)
Revised:	10/11/17 (Made title more specific, added quality control testing of autoclave)

Purpose of Policy: To reduce the risk of contamination in research animals due to the use of non-sterile materials.

Policy Information: It is important that all surgical instruments, needles, syringes and blood collection tubes be kept sterile prior to their use. Sterile supplies purchased directly from suppliers often have expiration dates printed on the packaging whereas materials intended for multi-use must be sterilized as needed.

Policy:

- Do not use single use sterile supplies from manufacturers if the protective packaging is damaged in any way.
- Do not use any expired materials on animals.
- Do not use any material that has been wet, soiled with dirt or blood or that has been improperly stored, as in an unsanitary manner or location or in a manner other than indicated by the packaging regarding light or temperature. Such material is considered contaminated.
- To the extent possible, store all sterile materials in closed cabinets or other containers.
- Sterile surgery packs or peel packs stored in open shelving are considered sterile for 3 months from the sterilization date or until the manufacturer's expiration date, whichever comes first. Check the manufacturer's packaging for an expiration date.

- Cloth or paper drape-wrapped packs stored in closed containers are good for one year from the date of sterilization or until the manufacturer's expiration date, whichever comes first, unless they have become contaminated.
- All packs must have sterilization dates so that they may be identified in the event that quality control testing indicates that the autoclave did not reach proper temperature.
- Inspect all packs prior to use for signs of compromised integrity. When in doubt, re-sterilize before use.
- Any package taken into an animal room is considered contaminated and must be re-autoclaved prior to its re-use.