

GENERAL MEDICAL 8.0

Drug Maintenance and Dispensation -- 8.3

Disposing of Out-of-Date Drugs -- 8.3.b

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Signature:



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POLICY

No drugs, medications, or vitamins which have passed their expiration date or which will expire within the specified treatment period will be dispensed or administered in any health department program or clinic. The only exception to this is a written clearance by the manufacturer or pharmaceutical company specifying the safety and continued effectiveness of the particular drug for a specified extended period of time. Such written clearance should include the FDA approved ANDA. The ANDA should specify the safety and continued effectiveness of the particular drug for a specified extended period of time.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all health department pharmacists, physicians, and nurses responsible for the distribution of drugs.

PURPOSE

To protect the health of persons receiving services from health departments.

PROCEDURE

In the case of primary care drugs purchased regionally or locally, the Regional Health Officer and Regional Pharmacist will be responsible for monitoring

expiration dates and destroying those drugs which have passed their expiration date.

In those regions where there is no Regional Pharmacist, there will be a system established by the Regional Health Officer to assure that medications, drugs and vitamins which are out-of-date are properly disposed of or returned to the manufacturer or pharmaceutical company for refund, replacement or written reassurance of safety and continued effectiveness for a specified extended period of time.

When drugs, medications or vitamins are received with an unreasonably short expiration date, appropriate action will be taken to return these for credit or for drugs with more reasonable expiration dates. In instances where there exists a supply of drugs or vitamins which cannot be used prior to the expiration date, contact should be made with the Regional Pharmacist to determine if they can be placed in another area to be used prior to the expiration date.

Use of medication beyond the initial expiration date requires that a copy of the appropriate ANDA be kept in the local health department pharmacy for the extended time period. A copy of the appropriate ANDA should also be on file in the Regional Pharmacy.

OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY

Office of the Medical Director, Bureau of Health Services, (615)741-7305