Expiration Guidelines on Diluted Drugs and Fluids

1. All drugs requiring dilution will be diluted and maintained using **sterile technique**.
   a. Sterile needles and syringes should be used to transfer drugs and diluents into sterile containers
   b. Multi-use vials should be disinfected prior to each use by swabbing the rubber cap with alcohol
   c. Drugs should be stored according to special requirements (i.e. amber bottles for buprenorphine & carprofen)
   d. To avoid waste and contamination potential, only make up what is needed

2. All diluted drugs should be **labeled** with the following information:
   a. Drug name
   b. Contact name
   c. Drug concentration
   d. Expiration date
   e. Any additional information required by the UCLA Pharmacy Vault

3. If handled as described in #1, **diluted drugs expire 30 days** from dilution, provided this does not pass either the expiration date of the drug listed on the original container or the sterile diluent. If the solution turns cloudy or discolored or becomes ineffective, it will be discarded.

4. If handled as described in #1, **multi-use fluid bags or vials** used for subcutaneous fluid administration or drug dilution should be discarded within **30 days**. The expiration date should be written on the vial or bag.

5. If handled as described in #1, stock solutions that are divided into **aliquots** but *are not diluted* expire at the same time as the original stock solution. The expiration date should be written on the aliquot.

6. Reminder: The UCLA Pharmacy Vault requires all controlled substances and their boxes or containers be returned to the Vault.

References

Assessment of Sterility in Fluid Bags Maintained for Chronic Use
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Authors: J Taylor, Brett; Orr, Steven; Chapman, Jennifer; Fisher, Diana
Source: Journal of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, Volume 48, Number 6, November 2009, pp. 718-726(9)

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