The Animal Care & Use Program has created the following decision tree to help members of the U-M research community navigate the proper use of substances, agents, medical materials, and drugs with animals. Please refer to the Animal Care A-Z website for more information about how the terms below (e.g., substance, agent, use-by-date, expiration date, etc.) are defined for regulatory/compliance purposes.

### SCENARIO – Administering a Substance or Agent to an Animal

START HERE

#### Question 1
Is the substance or agent approved for use in your animal protocol?

No → STOP

Yes → Yes – proceed to 3a

STOP – Do Not Proceed

ALL substances and agents must be included in an approved animal protocol BEFORE they can be administered to animals.

#### Question 2
Is this a sterile bag of fluids connected directly to an animal via an intravenous (IV) line?

No → Yes – proceed to 3b

STOP – Do Not Proceed

Federal regulations DO NOT ALLOW agents or substances past the manufacturer expiration or use-by-date to be administered to animals.

#### Question 3a
Are EITHER of the following true –
(1) the sterile bag of fluid is past the manufacturer recommended expiration or use-by-date OR
(2) the sterile bag of fluid was initially punctured more than 30 days ago?

Yes → STOP

Sterile fluids CANNOT be administered to an animal through an IV line if (1) the sterile fluids are past the manufacturer expiration or use-by-date OR (2) if it has been more than 30 days since the initial puncture.

No – proceed to 3b

#### Question 3b
Is the substance or agent past the manufacturer expiration or use-by-date?

No – proceed to 3b

STOP – Do Not Proceed

Sterile fluids CANNOT be administered to an animal through an IV line if (1) the sterile fluids are past the manufacturer expiration or use-by-date OR (2) if it has been more than 30 days since the initial puncture.

Yes → OK to Proceed

Yes, sterile fluids can be administered to an animal via an IV line.

Questions about the use of specific drugs or other medical materials in animals should be directed to your ULAM Faculty Veterinarian. For assistance with establishing a system to monitor for expired materials in your laboratory, please contact the Quality Assurance Team in the Animal Care & Use Office at ACUO-RCAs@umich.edu.