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., medical materials, etc.) are defined for regulatory/compliance purposes.

**SCENARIO - Using Expired Materials In or on An Animal**

START HERE

!? **Question 1**
Will the animal recover from this procedure or surgery?

Yes → Yes

No → STOP – Do Not Proceed

Expired medical materials CANNOT BE USED if they may adversely affect the animal or potentially compromise the validity of the scientific study.

!? **Question 2**
Will the medical material adversely affect the animal OR potentially compromise the validity of the scientific study?

Yes → STOP – Do Not Proceed

I’m not sure → STOP – Do Not Proceed

If you are unsure about how a specific drug, agent, substance, or medical material may impact the animals in your study, consult with your ULAM Faculty Veterinarian before proceeding.

No → OK to Proceed

Expired medical materials can be used in non-recovery surgeries/procedures if:
(1) the material will not adversely affect the animal or
(2) potentially compromise the validity of the scientific study.

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.