

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION POLICIES:
5.6 EXPIRY DATES OF STERILE PHARMACEUTICALS

POLICY

Sterile pharmaceuticals must be discarded as per the following table unless otherwise indicated on the label.

Product	Once opened or punctured, discard after:
Eye drops with preservative	30 days
Eye drops without preservative (commercial - single dose)	one use only
Eye drops without preservative (manufactured in pharmacy)	expiry date labelled by pharmacy
Vials for parenteral use with preservative	28 days
Vials for parenteral use without preservative	24 hours ¹ (unless labelled single use only)
Ampoules	single use only
Bags for I.V. use (with or without added drugs)	24 hours ^{1,2}
Bags for epidural use (prepared in pharmacy)	48 hours
Bags for epidural use (prepared in nursing unit)	24 hours
Bags/bottles for irrigation use (e.g. NS, BSS) (with or without added drugs)	24 hours ¹ (provided only 1 entry puncture)

¹ Stability data may indicate that the solutions must be discarded earlier. Check the Parenteral Drug Therapy Manual or contact the pharmacy.

² If a nurse adds medication to an iV bag on the nursing unit (ie. not in pharmacy), the bag should be started to infuse within 1 hour of preparation.