

Read this important information before administering:

EXPIRED MEDICATIONS



All expired medications are unsafe. Medications include all prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, supplements and alternative medications (herbal). An expired medication can be less potent (will not work as expected) or more potent (may cause an overdose). There is no way for you to know if an expired medication is safe.

Expired means the medication is no longer safe to take after the date listed on the prescription label or on the bottle of over-the-counter, supplements and alternative medications. For example, if a medication says it expires on Aug. 1, 2016, then the medication cannot be given on Aug. 2, 2016. The medication must be disposed of immediately according to Oregon Administrative Rules for licensed adult foster homes, assisted living facilities or child-caring agencies.

Avoiding expired medications:

- Remove all expired or unwanted medications immediately, secure in a locked location, dispose of the medication as directed and within the timeframe or policy of the setting.
- Never mix old medications with those in a new bottle.

- PRN (as needed) medications used routinely are more likely to expire before all the medication is gone. Get in the habit of checking expiration dates every month.
- Prescription drugs taken as directed rarely expire before being used unless the medication was ordered to be held for a long period of time.
- Never save discontinued medications; dispose of immediately.
- Avoid buying large bottles of “house” or “stock” medications.

Additional information:

FDA's Expiration Dates Matter — www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm251658.htm

Disposal of Unused Medicines: What You Should Know — www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/EnsuringSafeUseofMedicine/SafeDisposalofMedicines/ucm186187.htm

For additional information on safe medication practices go to:
<http://tinyurl.com/DHS-SafeMeds>

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