


### Expiry Date Guidelines for Care Homes with Nursing

Important: when applying any of the products listed below you should always wear gloves

INTERNAL MEDICINES	EXPIRY DATE
Liquids (Internal)	<b>6 months</b> from opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter (if unopened then manufactures expiry)
Antibiotic liquids	Usually <b>7 or 14 days</b> when freshly prepared. See label on preparation
Medication in original blister packs	<b>Manufacturer's expiry</b>
Medication in dosett boxes/MDS	As stated by pharmacist filling device
Glyceryl Trinitrate tablets	<b>8 weeks</b> after opening (hint, write date of opening on pot if possible)

EXTERNAL MEDICINES	EXPIRY DATE
Creams/ Ointments (tubes)	<b>3 months</b> Manufacturers recommendation (date sated on tub)
Creams and Ointments in pump dispenser	<b>Manufacturer's expiry</b>
Cream /Ointments (jars/pots)	<b>3 months</b> from opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter
Liquids/lotions	<b>6 months</b> from opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter
Bath oils	<b>6 months</b> from opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter
<b>Remember</b>	<b>If are not using complete tub consider requesting a smaller tub/ pump.</b>

MANUFACTURERS EXPIRY DATES	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
'Use by'	Use by the end of the month e.g. Use by July 2011 = Use by 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2016
'Use before'	Use before the beginning of the month e.g. Use before May 2011 = Use before 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2016
'Expiry date'	Expires at the end of the Month e.g. Expiry date June 2011 = Expires on 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
	Use by 12 months after opening note sometimes this figure is higher or lower e.g. 6m use within 6 months of opening or 24m use within 24 month of opening
<b>Remember only use one tube, tube or pump per patient,/ service user do not use for multiple patients/ service users.</b>	

DROPS	EXPIRY DATE
Ear Drops	<b>1 month</b> after opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter
Eye drops and Eye Ointment	<b>1 month</b> after opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter
Nose Drops	<b>1 month</b> after opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter