


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

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

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 st July 2016
'Use before'	Use before the beginning of the month e.g. Use before May 2011 = Use before 1 st May 2016
'Expiry date'	Expires at the end of the Month e.g. Expiry date June 2011 = Expires on 30 th 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
Remember only use one tube, tube or pump per patient,/ service user do not use for multiple patients/ service users.	

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