

Beyond-Use Date vs. Expiration Date

In veterinary medicine, both beyond use dates (BUDs) and expiration dates provide important information about a medication's shelf life. Though they sound similar and interchangeable, there are key differences between BUDs and expiration dates that directly impact patient outcomes and practice purchasing decisions.

To best determine the safety and quality of the medications your practice is administering or prescribing, it's beneficial to understand the differences between BUDs and expiration dates. Use the chart below to better understand the stability of veterinary medications.

	Beyond-Use Date	Expiration Date
Facility Use	503A compounding pharmacy	503B manufacturing facility
Medication Type	Individual, patient-specific prescriptions	Large batch of compounded veterinary medications for clinic and hospital needs
Requires Stability Testing	No	Yes
Determined By	Educated guess based on the date of compounding using USP guidelines or scientific data, if available	Assigned after extensive product stability testing is completed
Level of Accuracy	Varies depending on pharmacy processes and the quality of staff training	High-level and consistent because any changes to a product line, including formulation or container, requires new stability studies to be performed

Why Drug Stability Matters

Products that exceed their shelf life or those that have incorrectly assigned BUDs can cause a variety of problems, including:

- Degradation of the active ingredient.
- An increased concentration of the active ingredient.
- Drug contamination during distribution or storage as a result of impaired packaging integrity.
- Changes in the drug's bioavailability, **altering the rate and amount of medication absorbed by the patient.**
- Development of toxic byproducts due to the breakdown of one or more of the drug's components.

Products from a 503B or compounding pharmacy with an established stability program offer benefits including:

- Identification of potential impurities if API degrades.
- An understanding of the influence of various environmental conditions on the product quality.
- If necessary, open expiry can be established.



Don't question the quality of your medications. Partner with Epicur.

Epicur Pharma[®] brings a unique advantage to the veterinary industry. The 503B facility manufactures drugs with consistent potency, sterility, and purity from batch to batch.

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