

Shelf life of opened medicines

Opened medicines and infusion solutions can be used for the following times:

Application type / Type of medication	Shelf life	Storage condition
Intravenous (i.v.)	24 hours	According to manufacturer guidelines
Intramuscular (i.m.), intraperitoneal (i.p.)*	30 days or according to manufacturer guidelines	According to manufacturer guidelines
orally / topically	According to manufacturer guidelines	According to manufacturer guidelines
Mixed/diluted medicines* without preservatives	8 days	Fridge
* Exception: Pentobarbital and pentobarbital dilutions intended for euthanasia of rodents	3 months (undiluted) 30 days (diluted)	In a safe, as a narcotic (undiluted) At room temperature (diluted)

In principle, the following is valid:

- Opened medicines and infusion solutions must be clearly labelled with the date of opening.
- Opened infusion solutions must be provided with a label stating that the solution may no longer be used for injections 24 hours after opening.
- After 24 hours, opened infusion solutions may only be used externally or for wound irrigation.
- Drawn/filled syringes that are not used immediately shall be labelled with details of the contents
- Expired medicines are to be disposed of according to the SOP guidelines
- Medicines that are still stable by date but show untypical discolouration, turbidity, sedimentation or precipitation should also be disposed of.