

Recommended Expiry Dates of Medicinal Products Once Opened



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Formulation	Expiry Details*	Comments
Tablets and Capsules In original blister strips or manufacturer's bottle with printed expiry date	Manufacturer's expiry as it is printed on the original packaging or strip of medication (unless otherwise indicated in patient information leaflet)	Keep all medication in original packaging so the printed expiry is always accessible
Tablets and Capsules Dispensed by pharmacy in amber bottles	6 months from date of dispensing by the pharmacy	Unless directed otherwise by the dispensing pharmacy
Dispersible Tablets Dispensed by pharmacy in amber bottles	As per dispensing pharmacy	Check patient information label if unsure or contact dispensing pharmacy
MDS Trays	8 weeks from date of dispensing	
Oral Liquids In manufacturer's original bottle OR dispensed by pharmacy in amber bottle	6 months from date of opening or manufacturer's recommendation where shorter – mark date of opening on container. Antibiotic liquids have a shorter expiry date once made up. Check with patient information leaflet or with dispensing pharmacy	Check storage requirements – many liquids need to be stored in the fridge once opened/made up
External Liquids (Lotions, Shampoo, Bath Additives)	6 months from first opened	Or as per manufacturer as may be shorter – check packaging or patient information leaflet
Creams Tubes or Pump Dispensers	3 months from first opened	Or as per manufacturer as may be shorter – check packaging or patient information leaflet
Creams Pots, Tubs, Jars	1 month from first opened	
Ointments Tubes or Pump Dispensers	3 months from first opened	Or as per manufacturer as may be shorter – check packaging or patient information leaflet
Sterile Eye/Ear/Nasal drops (bottles)	28 days from opening or as per manufacturer	Check storage requirements may or may not require fridge storage once opened - check packaging or patient information leaflet
Rectal Diazepam	Manufacturer's original expiry date	Individual foil-wrapped tubes
	6 months from first opened	Non-foil wrapped
Feeds	As per manufacturer	Check storage requirements – many liquids need to be stored in the fridge once opened
Inhalers	Reduce expiry as needed as per manufacturer	Check packaging and patient information leaflet carefully for each inhaler
GTN Sprays	As per manufacturer	
Insulin	As per guidance on packing or patient information leaflet	Check information carefully – different products will have different expiries once removed from the fridge
<p>Any product which looks unfit for purpose should be disposed of following your procedure regardless of the expiry date. Check with dispensing pharmacy or if unsure.</p> <p>*Always check manufacturers' advice on packaging or information leaflet before administering medication. This is a guide and may not be applicable to ALL medicines.</p>		