

Expiry Date Guidelines for Care Homes

FORMULATION	EXPIRY DETAILS	COMMENTS
Tablets & capsules - stored in manufacturer's original packaging	Foil strips: Manufacturer's expiry Bottles: Manufacturer's expiry - some products may have a shorter expiry after opening	Medicines kept for use in the next cycle should be recorded in the 'carried forward' section of MAR chart
Tablets & capsules - decanted from original packaging into bottles by pharmacy	6 months from dispensing date unless otherwise specified	Medicines kept for use in the next cycle should be recorded in the 'carried forward' section of MAR chart
Tablets & capsules - stored in Multi-Compartment Compliance Aid	8 weeks from dispensing date	
Oral liquids - stored in original container	6 months from date of opening or manufacturer's recommendation if shorter	Write DATE of opening on dispensing label. Medicines kept for use in the next cycle should be recorded in the 'carried forward' section of MAR chart
External liquids	6 months from date of opening or manufacturer's recommendation if shorter	Write DATE of opening on dispensing label
Emollients - in pump dispensers/tubs/jars/tubes	3 months from date of opening or manufacturer's recommendation if shorter	All emollients should be for named residents. Write DATE of opening on dispensing label
Eye/ear/nose drops or ointments	1 month from date of opening or manufacturer's recommendation if shorter	Write DATE of opening on dispensing label on bottle/tube
Nasal sprays	3 months from date of opening or manufacturer's recommendation if shorter	Write DATE of opening on dispensing label on bottle
Inhalers	Manufacturer's expiry	
Insulin	Unopened stored in fridge: Manufacturer's expiry; Opened stored at room temperature: 4 weeks	Write DATE of opening on pen/cartridge. One pen/cartridge will often be sufficient for 1 month