

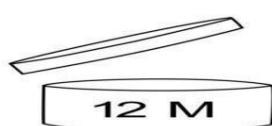
# Medication Expiry Date Guidance

| MANUFACTURER'S EXPIRY DATES                                                                                                                                                                                                |  | WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 'Use by'                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  | Use by the end of the month e.g. Use by July = Use by 31 <sup>st</sup> July                                          |
| 'Use before'                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  | Use before the beginning of the month e.g. Use before May = Use before 1 <sup>st</sup> May                           |
| 'Expiry date'                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  | Expires at the end of the Month e.g. Expiry date June = Expires on 30 <sup>th</sup> June                             |
| Top Tip: It is good practice to record on the tube, bottle or pump the day you opened the product, as some products expire one month after opening, again refer to the manufacturer's recommendations.                     |  |                                                                                                                      |
| INTERNAL MEDICINES                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  | EXPIRY DATE                                                                                                          |
| Liquids (Internal)                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  | <b>6 months</b> from opening or manufacturer's recommendation if shorter<br>(if unopened then manufacturer's expiry) |
| Antibiotic liquids                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  | Manufacturer's expiry or as stated by the pharmacist                                                                 |
| Medication in original blister packs                                                                                                                                                                                       |  | <b>Manufacturer's expiry</b>                                                                                         |
| Medication in dosette boxes/MDS                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | As stated by pharmacist filling the device                                                                           |
| Glyceryl Trinitrate tablets                                                                                                                                                                                                |  | <b>8 weeks</b> after opening                                                                                         |
| Many eye drops & ointments have an expiry longer than a month. Many of the newer lubricants (classed as CE devices) have an expiry of 2, 3 or 6 months depending on brand, please refer to the manufacturer's information. |  |                                                                                                                      |
| DROPS                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  | EXPIRY DATE                                                                                                          |
| Ear Drops                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  | Manufacturer's expiry                                                                                                |
| Eye drops and Eye Ointment                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  | Manufacturer's expiry                                                                                                |
| Nasal Drops                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  | Manufacturer's expiry                                                                                                |
| INJECTIONS & IRRIGATIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  | EXPIRY DATES                                                                                                         |
| Injections (Ampoules) and injections (multi dose without preservative)                                                                                                                                                     |  | Manufacturer's recommendation                                                                                        |
| Injections (multi dose with preservative used by IV route)                                                                                                                                                                 |  | Manufacturer's recommendation                                                                                        |
| Injections (multi dose with preservative used by non- IV route)                                                                                                                                                            |  | Manufacturer's recommendation.                                                                                       |
| Irrigations (without preservative)                                                                                                                                                                                         |  | Manufacturer's recommendation and discard immediately after use.                                                     |
| Irrigations (with preservatives)                                                                                                                                                                                           |  | One working session (e.g. Clinic)                                                                                    |

| Type of Cream/Ointment and container                                                | Advisory expiry date after opening (unless otherwise stated by manufacturer)  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tubs of creams & ointment                                                           | Three months                                                                  |
| Creams and ointments that have been decanted into a smaller container               | One month<br>If dispensed from pharmacy the label should specify expiry date. |
| Creams or ointments made specifically for the patient                               | Discuss with the dispensing pharmacy                                          |
| Pump dispenser packs of creams or ointments                                         | Refer to manufacturer's expiry                                                |
| Tubes of creams or ointments                                                        | Three months                                                                  |
| Liquids/lotions                                                                     | Six months                                                                    |
| Bath oils                                                                           | Six months                                                                    |
| <b>Remember if not using a complete tub consider requesting a smaller tub/ pump</b> |                                                                               |

### Identifying the manufacturer's expiry.

Some creams come with an expiry date logo on (see example below). The logo contains a picture of a jar with a semi-opened lid, with a number next to the letter M, which stands for "Months". This means that from the moment you open that jar, bottle, tube, etc. you should discard it after a certain number of months. So for this example you should discard after 12 months of opening.



Some products will say "see crimp for expiry" this is where you need to look.



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