

MANUAL TITLE:	MAC Rx Pharmacy Policies and Procedures Manual
POLICY #/TITLE	IIA3 Vials and Ampules of Injectable Medications
REVISION DATE:	
PAGES:	1 of 1

IIA3: VIALS AND AMPULES OF INJECTABLE MEDICATIONS

Policy

Vials and ampules of injectable medications are used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations or the provider pharmacy's directions for storage, use, and disposal.

Procedures

- A. Vials and ampules dispensed by the pharmacy are maintained in the box or container, with the pharmacy label, in which they are dispensed.
- B. The date opened and the initials of the first person to use the vial are recorded on multidose vials **[on the vial label or an accessory label affixed for that purpose]**. These labels are not required on single-use vials or ampules.
- C. Ampules and single-use vials (containing no preservative) are discarded immediately after use.
- D. The solution in multidose vials (MDV) is inspected prior to each use for unusual cloudiness, precipitation, or foreign bodies. The rubber stopper is inspected for deterioration. If a MDV is opened and does not indicate the date opened, the date opened reverts to the date of dispensing on the container, and the use period determined from that date. If the dispensing date cannot be determined, the product should not be used and should be discarded according to the facility's policy.
- E. If an unused/unopened multidose vial shows visible evidence of precipitation or contamination or the rubber stopper is deteriorating, it is not used, and it is returned to the provider pharmacy. A replacement vial is ordered from the provider pharmacy. The provider pharmacy determines the need for reporting a defective solution to the manufacturer and/or filing a Drug Product Problem Report with the Food and Drug Administration MedWatch program (See Appendices 21 and 22: FDA MEDWATCH REPORT FORMS).
- F. Medication in multidose vials may be used **[until the manufacturer's expiration date/for the length of time allowed by state law/according to facility policy/for thirty days]** if inspection reveals no problems during that time. USP <797> guidelines recommend discarding multidose vials (other than some insulins) at 28 days after opened.