

Expiry Date Guidelines for Care Homes

INTERNAL MEDICINES	EXPIRY DATE
Liquids (Internal)	6 months from opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter
Antibiotic liquids	Usually 7 or 14 days when freshly prepared. See label on preparation
Blister Packed/Single Unit doses	Manufacturer's expiry
Glyceryl Trinitrate tablets	8 weeks after opening

EXTERNAL MEDICINES	EXPIRY DATE
Creams (tubes)	3 months from opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter
Creams (jars/pots)	1 month from opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter
Ointments (tubes)	6 months from opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter
Ointments (jars/pots)	3 months from opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter
Liquids/lotions	6 months from opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter
Bath oils	6 months from opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter

DROPS	EXPIRY DATE
Ear Drops	1 month after opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter
Eye drops and Eye Ointment	1 month after opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter
Nose Drops	1 month after opening or manufacturers recommendation if shorter

MANUFACTURERS EXPIRY DATES	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
'Use by'	Use by the end of the month e.g. Use by July 2014 = Use by 31 st July 2014
'Use before'	Use before the beginning of the month e.g. Use before May 2014 = Use before 1 st May 2014
'Expiry date'	Expires at the end of the Month e.g. Expiry date June 2014 = Expires on 30 th June 2014