Labeling and Storage Requirements for Secondary Containers

Applicability
This policy applies to secondary storage containers in all animal use areas, including satellite procedure locations and LAMS facilities. This includes secondary storage containers used for all drugs, compounds, and chemicals. IACUC will inspect these areas at least every 6 months as required by the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW). While monthly inventory of laboratory supplies is ideal, quarterly inventory is strongly recommended.

Labeling Requirements
To meet OSHA requirements as enforced by AAALAC, all secondary containers containing drugs, compounds, or chemicals used in animal procedure or housing areas must be clearly and completely labeled with the following information:

- Name of the substance(s) exactly as written on primary container
- Concentration of the primary substance(s)
- Date of expiration (date made alone is not acceptable)
- Label the container “in-vitro” or “in-vivo”, the latter includes all oral, injectable, inhalant, or topical drugs and compounds used with live animals

Sterility Requirements
It is important to ensure all drugs and compounds that are stored in a secondary storage container over 24 hours for future use as an in-vivo injectable are kept sterile.

Red top Vacutainers or comparable sterile storage devices, such as pre-sterilized complete serum vials with an aluminum seal and rubber septum, are recommended. Note that syringes are not an acceptable container for sterile storage of injectables for animal use. Syringes may only be used to store in-vitro compounds (e.g. mineral oil for microscope). Note that it is not acceptable practice to re-use needles chronically installed in the secondary container since this practice compromises sterility. Furthermore, it is not acceptable to insert a used needle into the secondary container. Only sterile needles may be used to penetrate the rubber lid of the sterile secondary container. Drugs or compounds for oral administration only do not require sterile storage.

Filter Sterilization
If crystals or precipitates are visible or are a possible issue for the drug or compound used, or if there is concern that the primary mixture cannot be considered sterile, filter sterilization through a 0.2 micron filter is required. For example, filter sterilization is required for Avertin but not for secondary storage of Ketamine/Xylazine mixtures.