



Guidance on Shelf Life of Sterile Items

The shelf life of properly packaged sterile items is event-related. Event-related guidance will depend on the packaging material, storage conditions and handling/transport conditions. The storage area for packaged sterilized items should be well ventilated and protected against dust, moisture, insects, and temperature and humidity extremes. All packaged items must be checked prior to use. Sterility is considered compromised if the packaging is open, damaged or wet, if the seal is broken or if the package is dropped onto a contaminated surface. Sterile items with pre-determined expiration dates will abide by the printed expiration date.

Revision History

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