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Practitioner Reporting

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Storage and Expiration Dates

The stability parameters of a drug dosage form can be influenced by environmental conditions of storage (temperature, light, air, and humidity). Required storage conditions must be included in the labeling of all Pharmacopeial articles and should be observed throughout the distribution of the article. Strict adherence to the storage requirements specified in the product labeling will help ensure product potency and stability through to the manufacturer's labeled expiration date. The manufacturer's expiration date only applies if these storage requirements are met from the time the product leaves the manufacturer through its handling by the dispenser or seller to the consumer. Ideally, the pharmacy's labeling, which indicates proper storage conditions for the consumer, should be reinforced during patient counseling. However, it is recognized that proper control beyond the dispenser or seller is difficult.

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