



C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment.

MEMO

To: All South Carolina Licensed Providers

From: Jennifer L. Paddock, Director

Date: September 1, 2010

RE: Expired equipment

Throughout the course of inspections statewide, the Department's inspection staff has found that numerous agencies are carrying expired equipment. Examples of these items range from suction catheters to IV needles. This memo shall serve as notification that all items with an expiration date must be removed from service prior to expiration.

The Department is aware that this memo may contradict previous statements made by our staff. Effective immediately, credit will not be awarded for expired items during inspection. The Department cannot condone disregard of the manufacturers prescribed expiration dates. As always, torn or open packages on sterile equipment will also be considered unacceptable.

Due to the financial responsibility that this may incur, the Department will address these issues on a case by case basis with regards to agencies inspected in the next thirty (30) days.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation with this endeavor and please feel free to contact Henry Lewis at 803-545-4958 with any questions or concerns.