

FDA recalls

- ✓ **Class I:** products that could cause severe injury or death
- ✓ **Class II:** products that might cause significant injury or temporary illness
- ✓ **Class III:** products unlikely to cause injury or illness, but that violate FDA regulations

Color coding for waste disposal

Color	Use
Red	Blood and blood products, body fluids, sharps, and PPE that has touched blood, body fluids, or infectious material
Yellow	Chemotherapy waste, including tubes, IV bags, and sharps used for chemotherapy
Blue and white	Any pills, injectables, and antibiotics (non-hazardous waste only)
Black	Hazardous pharmaceuticals, radioactive waste

Common medications that need refrigeration

- ✓ Insulins
- ✓ Reconstituted antibiotic suspensions (e.g., amoxicillin)
- ✓ Certain eye drops (e.g., latanoprost)
- ✓ Chloramphenicol ear drops
- ✓ Vaccines
- ✓ Interferons (Pegasys)
- ✓ Filgrastim (Neupogen) injections
- ✓ Calcitonin (Miacalcin) nasal spray
- ✓ Lorazepam and gabapentin oral solutions
- ✓ Adalimumab (Humira)
- ✓ Epoetin (Epogen)
- ✓ Etanercept (Enbrel)
- ✓ Octreotide (Sandostatin)
- ✓ Ritonavir capsules
- ✓ Chlorambucil (Leukeran)
- ✓ Melphalan (Alkeran)
- ✓ Etoposide (VePesid)
- ✓ Dinoprostone cervical gel (Prepidil)
- ✓ Type 2 diabetes injections: exenatide (Byetta), liraglutide (Victoza)
- ✓ Semaglutide (Ozempic, Wegovy): refrigerate at 36–46°F before first use

Insulin stability

Store insulin refrigerated at about 36°F to 46°F. Manufacturer-supplied vials or cartridges, opened or unopened, may be kept unrefrigerated at 59°F to 86°F for up to 28 days and still work.

Vaccine storage

Vaccines licensed for refrigerator storage are kept at 2°C–8°C (36°F–46°F). Certain lyophilized (freeze-dried) vaccines, like varicella (chickenpox), are stored frozen.

Expiration date vs. shelf life

Expiration date

The date until which the manufacturer guarantees a drug's potency and safety. Ideally, drugs are not used after it: some keep their potency for a while, and some degrade to toxic products.

Shelf life

How long a drug keeps its quality. Past it a drug is not toxic, but may not be effective. Affected by storage conditions like heat, light, and moisture.