

Kings College

Mr J. Moody,  
Moody & Davies,  
Newmarket Street,  
Skipton,  
North Yorkshire

~~28 November 2017~~

Dear John,

Please find a letter from Barlow Lyde & Gilbert regarding an incident which occurred at Kings College Hospital London in 1996

I have constructed a file of all the relevant information I could find and have stored it electronically. The numbers on the pages refer to the electronic storage position only.

The Mennen Instruments were first introduced into Kings College Hospital in 1990.

(1) & (2). I have included these documents because although they do not include Pulse Oximetry it shows the hospital had been using these monitors 6 years, so should have been familiar with them. The system of alarms is not unique to Pulse Oximetry but applies to all parameters which were graded in level of seriousness and this was reflected in the audio and visual display. (10)  
Bear in mind this is one of the leading hospitals for monitoring and leading edge clinical procedures. One of our main problems with the original Horizons was too many alarms and much time was spent on initial training explaining to staff how to set them properly and how to disable them.

(04,05,06) demonstrate our response to the first complaint (03) on October 7th 1996.

(07) is interesting as it shows the departments dependence on Hi-Tech equipment and the desire to stay at the leading edge. I do not believe this is compatible with their inability to comprehend the alarm system after 6 years of use.

(10) Is the Mennen Medical response. The qualifications of the writer are USA.

(12) The Mennen Horizon XL is a multi-parameter monitor costing about £10K to £14K whereas a stand alone Pulse Oximeter was costing about £1K. Where a standalone instrument is dedicated to the parameter it is monitoring a multi-parameter patient monitor monitors multi-parameters and usually has inter-related alarm system and functions. It is like asking a one man band, even assuming high calibre, to play a solo instrument as a virtuoso in the Albert Hall.

(14) They had another problem in 1988 identical to 1996 with Pulse Oximeter alarms. Had they continued the practice even after they were advised not to?. If so, we had no chance they would follow the procedures we advised on the initial in-service training.

(19) Kontron evaluated the ECG problems and reported to Mennen Medical.

(18a) KCH identified a refrigerator as causing ECG problems.

In 1998 Viamed separated from Mennen Medical and the distribution passed over to Kontron. Kontron subsequently went out of business and Mennen Medical purchased them and set up a direct operation in the UK.

There may be more correspondence but as yet it has not been found. We have records going back to 1977 so it is a matter of diligently searching.

Please evaluate and let me know what I do next.

The delay has been acquiring the information I have from our archives

Yours sincerely,

John S. Lamb,  
Managing director.