

Department Manager
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Ref: 20190813/537P
October 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

Notice of Product Discontinuation

Viamed Apgar Timer

It is with regret that we are no longer able to accept any further purchase orders for the above product, which we have been manufacturing since 2005.

This product has been discontinued as it is no longer feasible to produce them, the two main factors are as follows:

1. Zero inflation policy adopted across the NHS by NHS Providers, for combating inflationary pressures.

As an SME that supplies predominantly to the NHS, Viamed is aware of the enormous financial pressures that many NHS Trusts are under and has been keen to support the NHS by offering the best possible value. To achieve this, Viamed has previously instigated reviews of its pricing policy to determine where greater value could be offered to its NHS customers, and a number of proactive steps were taken. However, associated manufacturing costs have continued to increase and we have reached the stage where commercially, we are unable to commit to unconditionally holding prices.

2. Requirements and associated costs of standards and certifications.

As an organization we have always embraced implement of standards. Viamed initially employed British Standards BS5750, then in 1994 adopted ISO 9000, which covers quality management and quality assurance. Latterly we also implemented ISO 13485, the standard for medical devices quality management. In parallel there are also the standards associated with CE certification. All of the above fall under the scope of the European Medical Device Directive.

The rigour of standards has increased significantly and the costs of applying these to legacy products is not feasible due to increased costs, as well as restricted access to services, such as clinical trials and reviews.

The decision to discontinue manufacture does not affect any devices already in service, which were fully compliant with the regulatory requirements that were in place when the devices were supplied. Viamed will continue to support the products with servicing, spare parts and accessories for a minimum of 7 years.

On behalf of Viamed I would like to thank our customers for their valued custom over the years. Should you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Nixon'.

Steve Nixon
Director