

# Technical Manual

## **Microstim DB3 Veterinary** Supramaximal Nerve Stimulator

Peripheral nerve stimulator  
for use during anaesthesia



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## Section 1 – Cautions & warnings

### **Caution:**

A prerequisite before using this manual is that the user should be familiar with the operation of the Microstim DB3 in accordance with the operating instructions supplied with the unit.


### **Caution:**


The circuitry inside the Viamed Microstim DB3 does not require any periodic maintenance or calibration. There are no user-serviceable parts. Viamed does not recommend field repair of the Viamed Microstim DB3. Any sign or evidence of opening the unit or field service by non-Viamed personnel; tampering, or any kind of misuse or abuse of the system shall void the warranty in its entirety. All repairs and service should be performed by Viamed, or a service representative authorized by Viamed.


The Microstim DB3 is designed to be robust yet compact in size. Without access to specialised equipment, troubleshooting and repair of circuit board components is not feasible.

### **Caution:**

Dispose of used batteries in accordance with local ordinances and regulations.

 Do not use a patient cable that appears to be damaged.

 There are no user-serviceable parts inside the Microstim DB3. The casing should only be removed by qualified service personnel.

 Pulse voltages in excess of 90V DC may be encountered on the PCB assembly.

## Section 2 – Cleaning instructions

### **To surface clean the Microstim DB3 and patient cable:**

Use a soft cloth dampened with either a commercial non-abrasive cleaner, or a solution of 70% alcohol in water.

Lightly wipe the surfaces of the unit.

### **To disinfect the Microstim DB3 and patient cable:**

Use a soft cloth saturated with a solution of 10% chlorine bleach in tap water.

## Section 3 - Packaging and return procedure

Obtain a Return Authorization number and shipping instructions before returning a DB3 for service by contacting the manufacturer / service centre:

Viamed Ltd.  
15 Station Road  
Cross Hills  
Keighley  
West Yorkshire BD20 7DT  
United Kingdom

Tel. +44 (0)1535 634542  
Fax. +44 (0)1535 635582  
Email: [info@viamed.co.uk](mailto:info@viamed.co.uk)

Please clean contaminated equipment before returning it to Viamed.  
Follow the cleaning procedures as in Section 2 - do not autoclave.

Package the equipment in the original packaging materials. If the original packaging is not available, use a suitable carton with appropriate packing material to protect it during shipping.

Enclose a letter specifying the following items:

1. Return Authorization number obtained from Viamed.

2. Service required:

For repair service please quote reference - 2540000.  
Detail any difficulties experienced with the Microstim DB3.

For routine annual service please quote reference - 2580000.

3. The serial number of the Microstim DBS. The serial number label is located inside the battery compartment.
4. Shipping and invoicing information of the sender - for returning the serviced Microstim DB3 and invoicing of any chargeable repair costs.
5. Contact information for any questions about the service; including:  
name, department and mail/telephone/fax number.

Return equipment by a method that provides proof of delivery.

## Section 4 - Warranty information

This product is warranted against defects in material and workmanship, and to operate within published specifications under normal use for a period of one year from the date of original shipment. Batteries are not warranted.

To request a warranty claim, contact Viamed for return authorization and instructions.

If an examination by Viamed discloses such products or component parts to be defective, Viamed's sole obligation is limited to repair or replacement (at Viamed's option) of the defective product or component and shall not include shipping costs.

This warranty does not extend to any product that was subject to misuse, neglect or accident; that was damaged by causes external to the product; or that was used in violation of the operating instructions supplied with the product. This warranty does not extend to any product that was modified in any way, or disassembled or reassembled by anyone other than Viamed or an authorized Viamed agent.

This warranty, together with any other express written warranty that may be issued by Viamed is the sole and exclusive warranty as to Viamed's products. This warranty is expressly in lieu of any oral or implied warranties; including without limitation any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. Viamed shall not be liable for any incidental, special or consequential loss, damage or expense directly or indirectly arising from the loss of use of any products.

## Section 5 - Equipment required to test the Microstim DB3

- 1) Digital multi-meter.
- 2) DB3 Tester, part number 2510005.



- 3) Oscilloscope capable of displaying 4MHz pulses, with a vertical graticule 0.1 Volts/division, and Horizontal sweep of 200 micro seconds/division minimum.

## Section 6 - Routine testing of the Microstim DB3

- a) Testing the battery. Using a digital multi-meter, test the voltage of the battery.

 Ensure that the battery is a 9V alkaline battery such as the following:

Duracell Procell MN1604

Testing of the patient lead. Test the continuity of the individual leads of the patient lead assembly using a digital multi-meter.

The standard patient cable assembly supplied with the Veterinary Microstim DB3 is:

Part number **2520000**  
Length: 0.90 m  
Terminations: Press Studs



Part number **2520020**  
Length: 0.90 m  
Terminations: Crocodile Clips



Alternative patient cables available are as follows:

Part number **2520001**  
Length: 1.5 m  
Terminations: Press Studs

Part number **2520021**  
Length: 1.5 m  
Terminations: Crocodile Clips

Part number **2520003**  
Length: 1.5 m  
Terminations: Miniature pinch clamps



c) Routine testing procedure.

- i) Ensure that the battery of the Microstim DB3 is in good condition. Without the patient lead connected press one of the function buttons, (in this case P.T.C is better). If the battery condition is good then the Microstim DB3 LED indicator will be green. The LED indicator changes from green to amber, then red as the battery output decreases. Replace the battery if the LED indicator is red.
- ii) Connect the Microstim DB3 Tester to the output of the Microstim DB3, red (+ve) and black (-ve). Set the Microstim DB3 intensity control to maximum (fully clockwise).



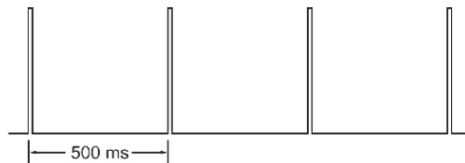
- iii) Depress each of the Microstim DB3 function buttons in turn. When a function button is pressed and held there should be audio output in conjunction with illumination of the green LED indicator on the Microstim DB3 (refer to the following Modes of Stimulation). The output can be verified by observing if the red LED indicator on the Microstim DB3 Tester is also illuminated in synchronization.

## Modes of Stimulation:

### Train of Four (T.O.F)

Consists of four stimuli at a frequency of 2 Hz.

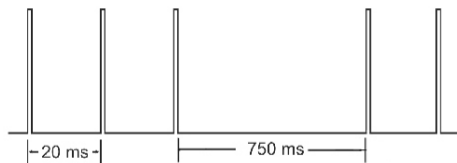
TRAIN OF FOUR



### Double Burst Stimulation (D.B.S)

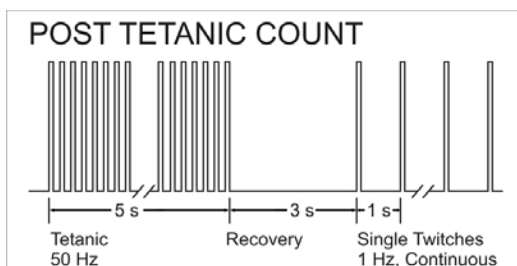
Consists of two short bursts of stimuli (3:2) at 50 pulses per second separated by 750 ms between bursts.

DOUBLE BURST STIMULATION



### Post Tetanic Count (P.T.C)

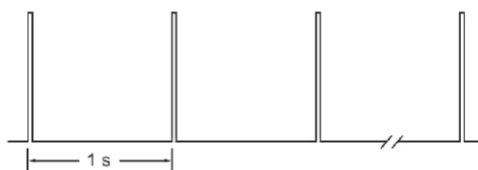
Consists of a sequence of pulses; 50 Hz for 5 seconds, a 3 second pause, followed by 1 Hz stimuli.




### Continuous 1Hz (Single Twitch)

Consists of a single stimulus applied repetitively at a frequency of 1 Hz.

1 Hz



Diagrams not to scale; for illustration purposes only.

 Note: Stimuli pulse width 200µs. To observe the stimuli pulses the DB3 tester needs to be connected to an oscilloscope – refer to section e).

d) Test results:

i) Microstim DB3 Tester LED indicator illuminated red – Microstim DB3 output test passed. It indicates that a stimulus of at least 90 V is being produced and that the battery voltage is at least 7.5 V.

ii) Microstim DB3 Tester LED indicator not illuminated:


- Battery level maybe low, check battery condition as in c)i) above.
- If still not illuminated check intensity control set to maximum as in c)ii) above.
- If still not illuminated then the Microstim DB3 has developed a fault, i.e. no or low output.

e) Verification of the output using an oscilloscope.

In order to further verify the output of the unit, additional tests can be carried out by connecting the Microstim DB3 Tester to an oscilloscope using the supplied BNC cable supplied with the tester.

Connect one end of the BNC cable to the output of the Microstim DB3 Tester and the other end to a suitable oscilloscope.



-  The Microstim DB3 Tester reduces the output of the Microstim DB3 by a factor of 100 in order to facilitate easy testing.

Typically the oscilloscope can be set to amplitude of 0.1 V per division and the time base as appropriate to the output being observed, i.e. 200  $\mu$ s per division.



## Section 7 – Disassembly of the Microstim DB3



Remove the battery compartment cover and the four retaining screws.

Open the case carefully. The case is held at the top with two retaining hooks; care should be taken as these can be broken. Prise case apart carefully with fingers until the retaining hooks are disengaged.



Once the two retaining hooks have been disengaged the case can be opened and the two halves laid side by side.



The intensity control knob can now be pulled off the spindle of the control potentiometer.



### Reassembly notes:

- Ensure that the intensity control knob is correctly aligned, i.e. turn the potentiometer fully counter clockwise and seat the knob in the spindle locating notch - so that the arrow on the intensity control knob indicates minimum intensity.

- b) Fit the two halves of the case together by first securing the retaining hooks. When fitting the two halves of the case together ensure that the battery leads are not trapped.

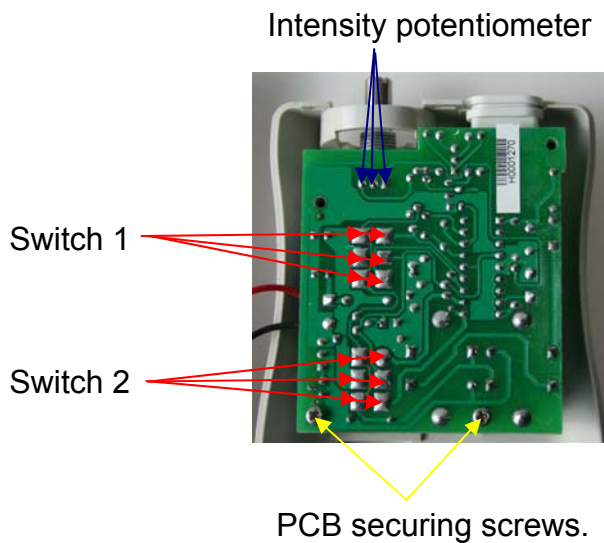
## Section 8 – Removal of PCB assembly.

### Stage 1:

Desolder the two mode switches; both switches have six solder pads.

Desolder the intensity potentiometer – three solder pads.

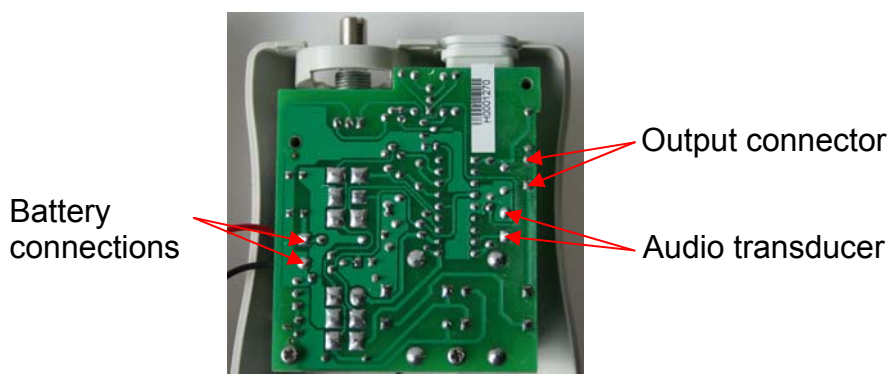
Remove the two PCB securing screws.



The PCB can now be pulled away from the case; but is still connected to the battery compartment, input connector and the audio transducer. Stage 1 allows for the replacement of the mode switches or the intensity potentiometer.

### Stage 2:

Desolder the battery connections, output connector and audio transducer. This enables the whole PCB assembly to be removed, including the LED indicator.



## Section 9 - Fault finding guide

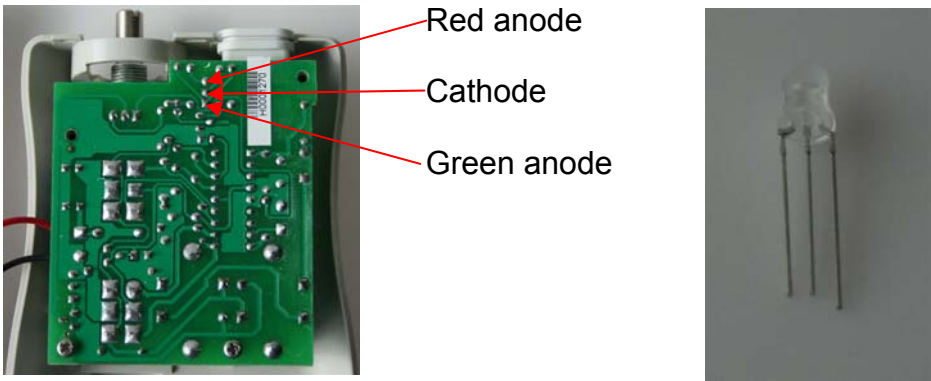
DB3				DB3 Tester	Oscilloscope	Action
Mode switches	Audio	LED	Output control	Red LED illuminated	Test range of output	
All four modes	Yes	Green	Set to maximum	Yes	Pass	Non required - unit functioning correctly
All four modes	Yes	Red	Set to maximum			Ensure intensity control set to maximum. If DB3 LED still red – replace battery.
All four modes	Yes	No illumination	Set to maximum	Yes	Pass	Test LED – page 11.
All four modes	No	Green	Set to maximum	Yes	Pass	Ensure that the DB3 tester is connected. DB3 requires a 'patient load' for audio to function. If still no audio, then test audio transducer – page 12.
All four modes	Yes	Yes	Set to maximum	No	None	Test output – page 13.
All four modes	Yes	Yes	Test span	Yes	Fail	Test potentiometer – page 14.
T.O.F.	No	No	Set to maximum	No	None	Test mode switch 1 – page 15.
D.B.S.	No	No	Set to maximum	No	None	Test mode switch 1 – page 15.
P.T.C.	No	No	Set to maximum	No	None	Test mode switch 2 – page 16.
1 Hz	No	No	Set to maximum	No	None	Test mode switch 2 – page 16.

**Section 10 - Test procedure - Output & battery level indicator (LED):**

Disassemble unit as per instructions on page 8.

Using an oscilloscope determine if the LED drive signal is present.  
Select DB3 1 Hz mode during test.

Using a multi meter carry out diode test i.e.  $\approx 1.6\text{ V}$  drop across the green diode and  $\approx 1.7\text{ V}$  across the red diode.



LED drive signal present?	LED test	Action	Part number
Yes	Fail	*Replace LED, (pcb ref: LED1).	2530016
No	Pass	**Replace pcb sub assembly.	2500000

\*Necessitates removing the PCB assembly as per procedure stage 1, see page 9.

\*\*Necessitates removing the PCB assembly as per procedure stage 1 and 2, see page 9.

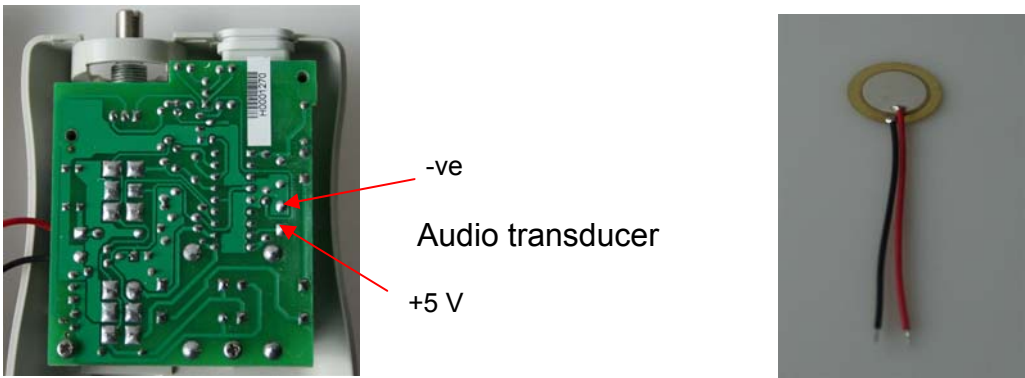
Part number  
2500000



Section 11 - Test procedure – Audio transducer:

Disassemble unit as per instructions on page 8.

Using an oscilloscope determine if the audio transducer drive signal (+5 V) is present. Select DB3 1 Hz mode during test.



(Capacitance 22 nf +/- 30%)

Audio transducer drive signal present?	Action	Part number
Yes	*Replace audio transducer (pcb ref: B1).	2530014
No	**Replace pcb sub assembly.	2500000

\*Necessitates removing the PCB assembly as per procedure stage 1, see page 9.

\*\*Necessitates removing the PCB assembly as per procedure stage 1 and 2, see page 9.

Part number  
2500000

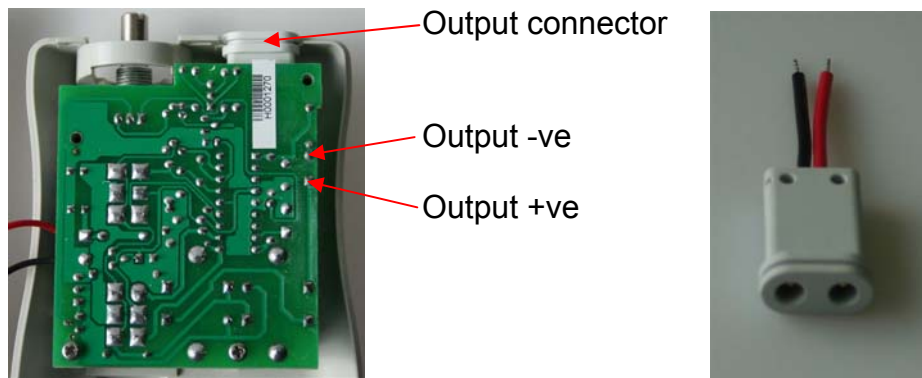


## Section 12 - Test procedure - Output signal

Disassemble unit as per instructions on page 8.

Using an oscilloscope determine if output signal is present. Set oscilloscope to 20V/div.

Select DB3 1 Hz mode during test.



Output present?	Action	Result	Part number
Yes	Test continuity of output between pcb and connector output pins.	Open circuit on +ve or -ve? *If so, replace output connector assembly.	2530010
No	Test intensity control potentiometer, see next procedure – Section 13.	If potentiometer OK **replace pcb sub assembly	2500000

\*Necessitates removing the PCB assembly as per procedure stage 1, see page 9.

\*\*Necessitates removing the PCB assembly as per procedure stage 1 and 2, see page 9.

Part number  
2500000



## Section 13 - Test procedure - Intensity control potentiometer

Disassemble unit as per instructions on page 8.

Using an oscilloscope determine if stimulation signal is present. Set oscilloscope to 2V/div.

Select DB3 1 Hz mode during test.

Centre pin – stimulation signal from the micro controller.

Right hand side pin – output to power amplification stage.

Intensity potentiometer



Output present?	Test potentiometer (10K) span using digital multi meter	Action	Part number
Yes	Fail	*Replace potentiometer	2530013
No	Pass	***Replace pcb assembly	2500000

\*Necessitates removing the PCB assembly as per procedure stage 1, see page 9.

\*\*Necessitates removing the PCB assembly as per procedure stage 1 and 2, see page 9.

Part number  
2500000

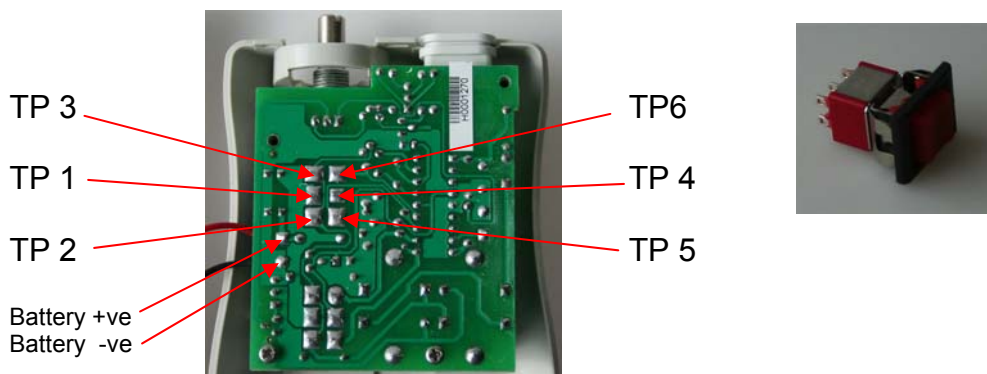




## Section 14 - Test procedure - Mode Switch 1

Disassemble unit as per instructions on page 8.

Using a digital multi-meter carry out voltage measurements.



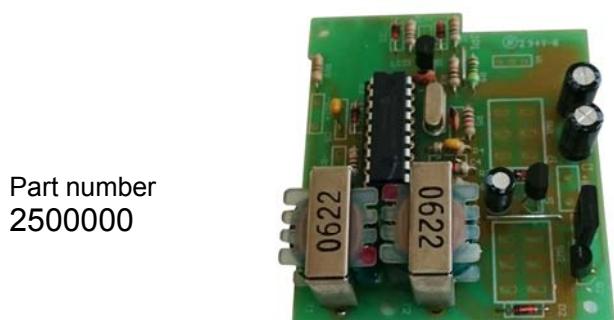
Mode switch selection	Test point	Expected voltage	Result	Action	Part number
<b>Non</b>	TP 1	<sup>1)</sup> 9V (battery).	0V	**Replace PCB sub assembly	2500000
<b>T.O.F.</b>	TP 2 & 3	<sup>1)</sup> 9V (battery).	0V	*Replace switch assembly SW1	2530011
	TP 4	5V regulated.	0V	**Replace PCB sub assembly	2500000
	TP 5	5V regulated.	0V	*Replace switch assembly SW1	2530011
<b>D.B.S.</b>	TP 2 & 3	<sup>1)</sup> 9V (battery).	0V	*Replace switch assembly SW1	2530011
	TP 4	5V regulated.	0V	**Replace PCB sub assembly	2500000
	TP 6	5V regulated.	0V	*Replace switch assembly SW1	2530011

<sup>1)</sup> **Battery voltage minus voltage drop across polarity protection diode circuit.**

\*Necessitates removing the PCB assembly as per procedure stage 1 - see page 9.

\*\*Necessitates removing the PCB assembly as per procedure stage 1 and 2 - see page 9.

NOTE: Faulty switch can be confirmed by carrying out continuity test using digital multi-meter.

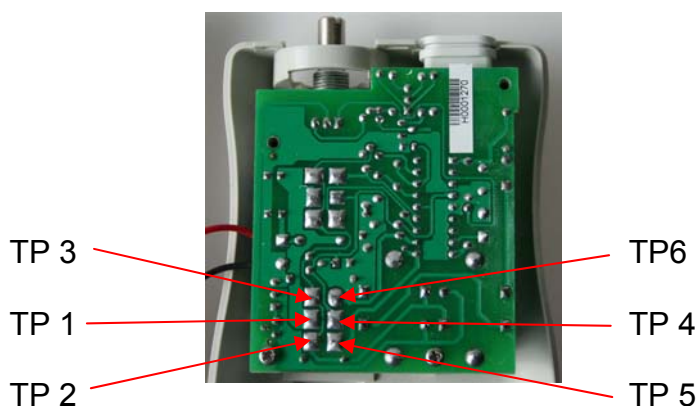




## Section 15 - Test procedure - Mode Switch 2

Disassemble unit as per instructions on page 8.

Using a digital multi- meter carry out voltage measurements.



Mode switch selection	Test point	Expected voltage	Result	Action	Part number
<b>Non</b>	TP 1	<sup>1)</sup> 9V (battery).	0V	**Replace PCB sub assembly	2500000
<b>P.T.C.</b>	TP 2 & 3	<sup>1)</sup> 9V (battery).	0V	*Replace switch assembly SW2	2530011
	TP 4	5V regulated.	0V	**Replace PCB sub assembly	2500000
	TP 5	5V regulated.	0V	*Replace switch assembly SW2	2530011
<b>1 Hz</b>	TP 2 & 3	<sup>1)</sup> 9V (battery).	0V	*Replace switch assembly SW2	2530011
	TP 4	5V regulated.	0V	**Replace PCB sub assembly	2500000
	TP 6	5V regulated.	0V	*Replace switch assembly SW2	2530011

<sup>1)</sup> **Battery voltage minus voltage drop across polarity protection diode circuit.**

\*Necessitates removing the PCB assembly as per procedure stage 1 – see page 9.

\*\*Necessitates removing the PCB assembly as per procedure stage 1 and 2 – see page 9.

NOTE: Faulty switch can be confirmed by carrying out continuity test using digital multi-meter.

Part number  
2500000



## Section 16 – Parts list

Part number	Description
2500000	PCB sub assembly
2520000	Patient leads 0.9m, press studs
2520001	Patient leads 1.5m, press studs
2520020	Patient leads 0.9m, crocodile clips
2520021	Patient leads 1.5m, crocodile clips
2520003	Patient leads 1.5m, miniature pinch clamps
2530001	Upper case
2530002	Lower case
2530046	Lower case label
2530004	Battery cover
2530005	Battery contact, +ve
2530006	Battery contact, -ve
2530007	Cable, battery contacts
2530008	Case screw
2530009	PCB assembly screw
2530010	Input connector
2530011	Mode switch & bezel (pcb ref. SW1 & SW2)
2530012	Intensity control knob
2530013	Potentiometer (pcb ref. W1)
2530014	Audio transducer
2530016	LED
2590030	Operator's manual
9950055	Battery, 9V Alkaline, MN1604

## Section 17 - Manufacturer

Viamed Ltd.  
15 Station Road  
Cross Hills  
Keighley  
West Yorkshire BD20 7DT  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1535 634542  
Fax: +44 (0)1535 635582  
Email: [info@viamed.co.uk](mailto:info@viamed.co.uk)  
Website: [www.viamed.co.uk](http://www.viamed.co.uk)

**Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013:**  
Environment Agency producer registration number - WEE/DD1952ZQ

**Note:** Specifications subject to change.  
Please contact Viamed for further specifications and information.