

## Rocket<sup>®</sup> Long Glass Heparinised Tubes: Scheduled Discontinuation

### Dear Customer,

Rocket Medical have supplied 'long glass heparinised tubes' for fetal blood sampling for over 30 years.

The tubes, in straight and angled versions, are currently supplied non-sterile and also included in our generic sterile FBS Kits.

Regulatory changes concerning IVD's, introduced as part of the **Medical Device Regulation (EU) 2017/745** and the **In-vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation (EU) 2017/746** have introduced newly increased risk classifications for in-vitro diagnostic medical devices in line with international guidance.

The use of long glass tubes in body cavities also presents safety concerns under the **Health and Safety (Sharps Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013**.

Combined with a rapidly increasing Regulatory environment, is the steady introduction of new 'desktop' blood gas analysers which require accurate blood samples in the range 35-100µl taken with dedicated, small volume, high heparin plastic tubes. Traditional long glass tubes are no longer compatible with these newer systems. As a result, unit volumes are steadily reducing as customers convert to one of Rocket Medical's range of FBS kits with plastic high heparinised tubes which are matched to specific analysers to ensure compatibility.

The production of glass tubing for laboratory and medical applications is restricted to specialist manufacturers and the number of suppliers capable of meeting the required quality at an acceptable cost is also diminishing.

As a consequence of all these combined factors, Rocket Medical is advising customers of its long term plan to withdraw glass heparinised tubes from the market by **31st December 2020**.

**Please note that this is the latest scheduled date for supply.** There are many other factors over which we have very limited control which may result in withdrawal of these products from the market prior to this date.

**Customers are advised to contact our Customer Services Team, your local Rocket Sales office or Distribution partner for advice.**

The following product codes will be affected:

Stock code	Description	Stock code	Description
<b>R57012</b>	Rocket FBS Kit	<b>R57013</b>	Rocket FBS Kit
<b>R57012-00-SW</b>	Rocket FBS Kit + Sampling Wand	<b>R57013-00-SW</b>	Rocket FBS Kit + Sampling Wand
<b>R57014</b>	Glass Heparinised Tube Angled	<b>R57015</b>	Glass Heparinised Tube Straight
<b>R60549</b>	Glass Heparinised Tube Angled		

### For and on behalf of Rocket Medical plc.

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### Customer Information Bulletins

for all of our products can be found on our web site at:  
<https://sales.rocketmedical.com>

**If you have any questions, please contact the Customer Services Team for assistance:**

**Tel: +44 191 419 6988.**  
**Email: [customerservices@rocketmedical.com](mailto:customerservices@rocketmedical.com)**