



April 26, 2016

In January, Johnson & Johnson Medical Devices announced a series of actions designed to restructure the business and better serve the needs of customers and patients in today's evolving healthcare marketplace.

After careful consideration, Ethicon plans to discontinue sales of the Ethicon Endo-Surgery Curved Adjustable Gastric Band in line with declining Gastric Band procedure trends. The company is planning to phase out the Gastric Band at the end of 2016, except where we have extended commitments with customers. This plan to discontinue should not disrupt patients who are already scheduled to receive a Gastric Band, so the Gastric Band will be available for purchase through the end of 2016.

We recognize that many patients have benefited from the Gastric Band. And to meet the needs of our patients who currently have a Gastric Band, the company is planning to prepare an inventory of replacement ports and port appliers to cover estimated demand for five years from an end of manufacture date.

The Gastric Band may continue to be an appropriate solution for some patients.

The Ethicon Endo-Surgery Curved Adjustable Gastric Band continues to perform consistently with clinical results, and is still considered a safe option for patients and surgeons who choose this solution—a decision that will continue to be made by the patient and his or her physician.

Patients should continue to consult their doctor with questions regarding their band. Our Post Market and Safety Surveillance group will also continue to be available for inquiries and general support for patients that continue to have the Gastric Band implanted. Patients can call 1-877-ETHICON if they have questions. You can also call 1-877-ETHICON with questions about the Gastric Band.

Ethicon remains committed to the Bariatric and Metabolic market. We recognize that the treatment pathway for patients is complex, and the barriers are many. Ethicon invests and will continue to invest millions annually in innovations, research, and market access programs to help address obesity and metabolic disease. Reallocating the resources and investment currently used by the Gastric Band will be an important contribution toward our ongoing ability to accelerate the pace of innovation—specifically in the bariatric and metabolic field.

These decisions remain difficult, but we believe these efforts will ultimately benefit you, benefit the patients we both serve, and strengthen our business.

Respectfully,

Ethicon