

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT
 UNDER THE
 SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

CONMED CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

New York

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

16-0977505

(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

525 French Road

Utica, New York 13502-5994

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Stock Option Plan for Non-Employee Directors of CONMED Corporation

CONMED Corporation 1999 Long-Term Incentive Plan

CONMED Corporation 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan

(Full Title of the Plans)

Daniel S. Jonas, Esq.

CONMED Corporation

525 French Road

Utica, New York 13502-5994

(315) 797-8375

(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Agent for Service)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share(2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock (\$.01 par value) to be issued under the				
Stock Option Plan for Non-Employee Directors of CONMED Corporation	100,000	\$23.43	\$2,342,500	\$216
CONMED Corporation 1999 Long-Term Incentive Plan	1,000,000	\$23.43	\$23,425,000	\$2,155
CONMED Corporation 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (3)	1,000,000	\$23.43	\$23,425,000	\$2,155
Total	2,100,000		\$49,192,500	\$4,526

- (1) This Registration Statement also relates to an indeterminate number of additional shares of common stock that may be issued pursuant to anti-dilution and adjustment provisions of the above-named plans.
- (2) Calculated solely for the purpose of determining the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(g) based upon the average of the bid and asked prices reported on the NASDAQ National Market on June 7, 2002, \$23.43 per share.
- (3) In addition, pursuant to Rule 416(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement also covers an indeterminate amount of interests to be offered or sold pursuant to the 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan. Pursuant to Rule 457(h)(2) no fee is payable with respect to the registration of these interests.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As permitted by Rule 428 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), this registration statement omits the information specified in Part I of Form S-8. The documents containing the information specified in Part I will be delivered to the participants in the plans covered by this registration statement as required by Rule 428(b). Such documents are not being filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") as part of this registration statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 424 of the Securities Act.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents By Reference

The following documents filed by CONMED Corporation (the “Company”), pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) (File No. 0-16093), are hereby incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement:

- (a) The annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001;
- (b) The quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2002; and

(c) The description of the Company’s Common Stock which is contained in its Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed on August 5, 1987 pursuant to the Exchange Act.

All documents filed by the Company pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this Registration Statement and prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date filing of such documents.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein (or in any other subsequently filed document which also is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein) modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

Item 4. Description of Securities

Not applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel

The validity of the Common Stock registered hereby, shares of which are issuable by the Registrant pursuant to the Stock Option Plan for Non-Employee Directors, the 1999 Long-Term Incentive Plan and the 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, is being passed on by Daniel S. Jonas, Vice President-Legal Affairs and General Counsel of the Company, who as an executive officer of the Registrant is a potential beneficiary under the 1999 Long-Term Incentive Plan and the 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Section 722 of the New York Business Corporation Law (the “BCL”) provides that a corporation may indemnify an officer or director, in the case of third party actions, against judgments, fines, amounts paid in settlement and reasonable expenses and, in the case of derivative actions, against amounts paid in settlement and reasonable expenses, if the director or officer “acted, in good faith, for a purpose which he reasonably believed to be in . . . the best interests of the corporation” and, in the case of criminal actions, in addition, “had no reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful.” Statutory indemnification may not be provided in derivative actions in respect of a threatened action, or a pending action which is settled or otherwise disposed of, or any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation, unless and only to the extent that the court in which the action was brought, or, if no action was brought, any court of competent jurisdiction, determines upon application that, in view of all the circumstances of the case, the person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such portion of the settlement and expenses as the court deems proper.

As contemplated by BCL Section 721, the Registrant’s By-laws, as amended on December 26, 1990, provide a broader basis for

indemnification in accordance with and as permitted by BCL Article 7.

Section 6.6 of the By-Laws of the Registrant (referred to in the By-Laws as the “Corporation”) provides as follows:

“Section 6.6. Indemnification. The Corporation shall indemnify each person made or threatened to be made a party to any action or proceeding, whether civil or criminal, by reason of the fact that such person or such person’s testator or intestate is or was a director or officer of the Corporation, or serves or served at the request of the Corporation, any other corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise in any capacity, against judgments, fines, penalties, amounts paid in settlement and reasonable expenses, including attorneys’ fees, incurred in connection with such action or proceeding, or any appeal therein, provided that no such indemnification shall be made if a judgment or other final adjudication adverse to such person establishes that his or her acts were committed in bad faith or were the result of active and deliberate dishonesty and were material to the cause of action so adjudicated, or that he or she personally gained in fact a financial profit or other advantage to which he or she was not legally entitled, and provided further that no such indemnification shall be required with respect to any settlement or other nonadjudicated disposition of any threatened or pending action or proceeding unless the Corporation has given its prior consent to such settlement or other disposition.

The Corporation may advance or promptly reimburse upon request any person entitled to indemnification hereunder for all expenses, including attorneys’ fees, reasonably incurred in defending any action or proceeding in advance of the final disposition thereof upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such person to repay such amount if such person is ultimately found not to be entitled to indemnification or, where indemnification is granted, to the extent the expenses so advanced or reimbursed exceed the amount to which such person is entitled, provided, however, that such person shall cooperate in good faith with any request by the Corporation that common counsel be utilized by the parties to an action or proceeding who are

II-2

similarly situated unless to do so would be inappropriate due to actual or potential differing interests between or among such parties.

Anything in these by-laws to the contrary notwithstanding, no elimination of this by-law, and no amendment of this by-law adversely affecting the right of any person to indemnification or advancement of expenses hereunder shall be effective until the 60th day following notice to such person of such action, and no elimination of or amendment to this by-law shall deprive any person of his or her rights hereunder arising out of alleged or actual occurrences, acts or failures to act prior to such 60th day.

The Corporation shall not, except by elimination or amendment of this by-law in a manner consistent with the preceding paragraph, take any corporate action or enter into any agreement which prohibits, or otherwise limits the rights of any person to, indemnification in accordance with the provisions of this by-law. The indemnification of any person provided by this by-law shall continue after such person has ceased to be a director, officer or employee of the Corporation and shall inure to the benefit of such person’s heirs, executors, administrators and legal representatives.

The Corporation is authorized to enter into agreements with any of its directors, officers or employees extending rights to indemnification and advancement of expenses to such person to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law as it currently exists, but the failure to enter into any such agreement, shall not affect or limit the rights of such person pursuant to this by-law, it being expressly recognized hereby that all directors, officers and employees of the Corporation, by serving as such after the adoption hereof, are acting in reliance hereon and that the Corporation is estopped to contend otherwise.

In case any provision in this by-law shall be determined at any time to be unenforceable in any respect, the other provisions shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby, and the affected provision shall be given the fullest possible enforcement in the circumstances, it being the intention of the Corporation to afford indemnification and advancement of expenses to its directors, officers and employees, acting in such capacities or in the other capacities mentioned herein, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

For purposes of this by-law, the Corporation shall be deemed to have requested a person to serve an employee benefit plan where the performance by such person of his or her duties to the Corporation also imposes duties on, or otherwise involves services by, such person to the plan or participants or beneficiaries of the plan, and excise taxes assessed on a person with respect to an employee benefit plan pursuant to applicable law shall be considered indemnifiable expenses. For purposes of this by-law, the term “Corporation” shall include any legal successor to the Corporation, including any corporation which acquires all or substantially all of the assets of the Corporation in one or more transactions.”

II-3

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits

Exhibit

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
4.1	Amended and Restated By-Laws, as adopted by the Board of Directors on December 26, 1990 – incorporated herein by reference to the exhibit in the Company’s Current Report on Form 8-K, dated March 7, 1991 (File No. 0-16093).
4.2	Composite Version of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 in the Company’s Registration Statement on Form S-8, dated May 21, 1999 (File No. 333-78987).
4.3	Composite Version of the Stock Option Plan for Non-Employee Directors of CONMED Corporation.
4.4	Composite Version of the CONMED Corporation 1999 Long-Term Incentive Plan.
4.5	CONMED Corporation 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan – incorporated herein by reference to the exhibit in the Company’s Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 17, 2002 (File No. 0-16093).
5	Opinion of Daniel S. Jonas, Vice President-Legal Affairs & General Counsel of CONMED Corporation, with respect to the securities being registered hereunder.
23.1	Consent of Daniel S. Jonas (included in the opinion filed as Exhibit 5 hereto).
23.2	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.
24	Power of Attorney (included on the signature page of the Registration Statement).

II-4

Item 9. Undertakings

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement;

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof; and

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant’s annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than insurance and the

payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

II-5

SIGNATURES OF CONMED CORPORATION

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Utica, State of New York on this 13th day of June, 2002.

CONMED Corporation

By: /s/ Daniel S. Jonas

Name: Daniel S. Jonas, Esq.
Title: Vice President-Legal Affairs & General
Counsel

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that each individual whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Daniel S. Jonas his true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent with full power of substitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement, and to file the same with all exhibits thereto, and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact and agent or his substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the indicated capacities on this 13th day of June, 2002.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
<u>/s/ Eugene R. Corasanti</u> Eugene R. Corasanti	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
<u>/s/ Robert D. Shallish</u> Robert D. Shallish	Vice President - Finance and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)
<u>/s/ Joseph J. Corasanti</u> Joseph J. Corasanti	President, Chief Operating Officer and Director
<u>/s/ Luke A. Pomilio</u> Luke A. Pomilio	Vice President - Corporate Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)
<u>/s/ Bruce F. Daniels</u> Bruce F. Daniels	Director

/s/ Robert E. Rimmell

Robert E. Rimmell

Director

/s/ William D. Matthews

William D. Matthews

Director

/s/ Stuart J. Schwartz

Stuart J. Schwartz

Director

II-6

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

- 4.1 Amended and Restated By-Laws, as adopted by the Board of Directors on December 26, 1990 – incorporated herein by reference to the exhibit in the Company’s Current Report on Form 8-K, dated March 7, 1991 (File No. 0-16093).
- 4.2 Composite Version of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 in the Company’s Registration Statement on Form S-8, dated May 21, 1999 (File No. 333-78987).
- 4.3 Composite Version of the Stock Option Plan for Non-Employee Directors of CONMED Corporation.
- 4.4 Composite Version of the CONMED Corporation 1999 Long-Term Incentive Plan.
- 4.5 CONMED Corporation 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan – incorporated herein by reference to the exhibit in the Company’s Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 17, 2002 (File No. 0-16093).
- 5 Opinion of Daniel S. Jonas, Vice President-Legal Affairs & General Counsel of CONMED Corporation, with respect to the securities being registered hereunder.
- 23.1 Consent of Daniel S. Jonas (included in the opinion filed as Exhibit 5 hereto).
- 23.2 Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.
- 24 Power of Attorney (included on the signature page of the Registration Statement).

II-7

STOCK OPTION PLAN**FOR****NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTORS OF CONMED CORPORATION***

The Stock Option Plan for Non-Employee Directors of CONMED Corporation (this "Plan") is established to attract and retain highly qualified individuals who are not current or former employees of CONMED Corporation (the "Company") as members of the Board of Directors of the Company and to enable them to increase their ownership in the common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of the Company (the "Company's Common Stock"). This Plan will be beneficial to the Company and its stockholders because it will allow these directors to have a greater personal financial stake in the Company through the ownership of the Company's Common Stock, in addition to underscoring their common interest with stockholders in increasing the long-term value of the Company's Common Stock.

1. ELIGIBILITY

All members of the Company's Board of Directors who are not current or former employees of the Company or any of its subsidiaries ("Non-Employee Directors") are eligible to participate in this Plan.

2. SHARES AVAILABLE

(a) Number of Shares Available. Stock options may be granted under this Plan to purchase up to a maximum of 212,500 shares of the Company's Common Stock, subject to adjustment, as hereinafter provided. Shares issuable under this Plan may be authorized but unissued shares or treasury shares. If any stock option granted under this Plan expires or otherwise terminates without having been exercised, the shares subject to the unexercised portion of such stock option shall continue to be available for the granting of stock options under this Plan.

(b) Recapitalization Adjustment. In the event of a reorganization, recapitalization, stock split, stock dividend, combination of shares, merger, consolidation, rights offering, or any other change in the corporate structure or shares of the Company, adjustments in the number and kind of shares authorized by this Plan, in the number and kind of shares covered by, and in the option price of outstanding stock options under, this Plan shall be made if, and in the same manner as, such adjustments are made to stock options issued under the Company's then current stock option plans.

* Composite copy reflecting all amendments and adjustments through May 14, 2002.

3. GRANT OF NONQUALIFIED STOCK OPTIONS

(a) Each year on the first business day following the Company's Annual Meeting of Stockholders, each individual elected, reelected or continuing as a Non-Employee Director shall automatically receive stock options covering 4,500 shares of the Company's Common Stock. If the Company's Common Stock is not listed for quotation on the Nasdaq National Market on any such date a grant would otherwise be awarded, then such grant shall be made the next day thereafter that the Company's Common Stock is so listed on Nasdaq National Market or any national securities exchange or inter-dealer automated quotation system.

(b) Any Non-Employee Director of the Company who is elected to the Board of Directors may, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, be granted on the date such Non-Employee Director is so elected an option for an amount as the Board of Directors may, in its discretion, select, provided that such amount is not in excess of 10,000 shares of the Company's Common Stock.

4. OPTION PRICE

The price of each stock option granted under this Plan shall be the Fair Market Value (as defined below) on the date of grant of such option. For purposes of this Plan, "Fair Market Value" shall mean, as of any date, (i) if the Company's Common Stock is listed or admitted to unlisted trading privileges on any national securities exchange or is not so listed or admitted but transactions in the Company's Common Stock are reported on the Nasdaq National Market, the mean between the reported high and low sale prices of the Company's Common Stock on such exchange or by the Nasdaq National Market as of such date (or, if no such shares were traded on such date, as of the next preceding day on which there was such a trade); or (ii) if the Company's Common Stock is not so listed or admitted to unlisted trading privileges or reported on the Nasdaq National Market, and bid and asked prices therefor in the over-the-counter market are reported by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. or the National Quotation Bureau, Inc. (or any

comparable reporting service), the mean of the closing bid and ask prices of the Company's Common Stock as of such date, as so reported; or (iii) if the Company's Common Stock is not so listed or reported, such value as the Board of Directors of the Company determines in good faith in the exercise of its reasonable discretion.

5. OPTION PERIOD

A stock option granted under this Plan shall become exercisable one year after date of grant and shall expire ten years after date of grant (the "Option Period").

6. PAYMENT

The stock option price shall be paid in cash in U.S. dollars at the time the stock option is exercised.

2

7. TERMINATION OF SERVICE

Upon termination of service as a Non-Employee Director (other than for reasons of retirement, disability or death), all stock options of such optionee shall terminate immediately. If an optionee's service is terminated by reason of disability or retirement with the consent of the Board of Directors (other than the optionee), such optionee's stock options shall be exercisable at any time prior to the expiration date of the stock option or within 90 days after the date of such termination, whichever is the shorter period. If an optionee's service is terminated as a result of such optionee's death, such optionee's stock options shall be exercisable by the person or persons to whom those rights pass by will or by the laws of descent and distribution at any time prior to the expiration date of the stock option or within 90 days after the date of such death, whichever is the shorter period.

8. ADMINISTRATION AND AMENDMENT OF THIS PLAN

This Plan shall be administered by the Board of Directors of CONMED Corporation. This Plan may be terminated or suspended by the Board of Directors as they deem advisable. The Board of Directors may amend this Plan from time to time in any respect the Board of Directors may deem to be in the best interests of the Company; provided, however, that (a) no such amendment shall be effective without approval of the shareholders of the Company, if shareholder approval of the amendment is then required pursuant to Rule 16b-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), or the applicable rules of any securities exchange or consolidated reporting system, and (b) to the extent prohibited by Rule 16b-3(c)(2)(ii)(B) under the Exchange Act, this Plan may not be amended more than once every six months unless necessary to comply with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. A stock option may not be granted under this Plan after May 23, 2005, but stock options granted prior to that date shall continue to become exercisable and may be exercised according to their terms.

9. NONTRANSFERABILITY

No stock option granted under this Plan is transferable other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution. During the optionee's lifetime, a stock option may only be exercised by the optionee or the optionee's guardian or legal representative.

10. COMPLIANCE WITH SEC REGULATIONS

It is the Company's intent that this Plan comply in all respects with Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act, and any regulations promulgated thereunder. If any provision of this Plan is later found not to be in compliance with Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act, the provision shall be deemed null and void. All grants of stock options under this Plan shall be executed in accordance with the requirements of Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act.

11. GOVERNMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Each grant under this Plan shall be subject to the requirement that if at any time the Board of Directors shall determine that the listing, registration or qualification of any shares issuable or deliverable thereunder upon any securities exchange or under any federal or state law, or the consent or approval of any governmental regulatory body, is necessary or desirable as a

3

condition thereof, or in connection therewith, no such grant may be exercised or shares issued or delivered unless such listing,

registration, qualification, consent or approval shall have been effected or obtained free of any conditions not acceptable to the Board of Directors.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

Except as provided in this Plan, no Non-Employee Director shall have any claim or right to be granted a stock option under this Plan. Neither this Plan nor any action thereunder shall be construed as giving any director any right to be retained in the service of the Company.

13. GOVERNING LAW

This Plan and all rights and obligations under this Plan shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of New York.

14. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Plan shall be effective May 23, 1995 or such later date as shareholder approval is obtained.

COMPOSITE VERSION

CONMED CORPORATION

1999 LONG-TERM INCENTIVE PLAN*

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of the 1999 Long-Term Incentive Plan of CONMED Corporation (the “Plan”) is to promote the long term financial interests of CONMED Corporation (the “Company”), including its growth and performance, by encouraging employees of the Company and its subsidiaries and consultants who provide important services to the Company and its subsidiaries to acquire an ownership position in the Company, enhancing the ability of the Company and its subsidiaries to attract and retain employees and consultants of outstanding ability, and providing employees and consultants with an interest in the Company parallel to that of the Company’s shareholders. To achieve these purposes, the Company may grant Awards of options, restricted shares, stock appreciation rights and performance shares to key employees and consultants selected by the Stock Option Committee, all in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Plan.

2. DEFINITIONS. The following definitions are applicable to the Plan:

“Award” shall mean an award determined in accordance with the terms of the Plan.

“Board of Directors” shall mean the Board of Directors of the Company.

“Committee” shall mean the Stock Option Committee of the Board of Directors. The Committee shall be composed of not less than two directors of the Company. The Board of Directors may also appoint one or more directors as alternate members of the Committee. No officer or employee of the Company or of any subsidiary shall be a member or alternate member of the Committee. The Committee shall at all times be comprised solely of “outside directors” within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code and in such a manner as to satisfy the “non-employee” director standard contained in Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act.

“Common Stock” shall mean the common stock, par value \$.01 per share, of the Company.

“Covered Employee” means, at the time of an Award (or such other time as required or permitted by Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code) (i) the Company’s Chief Executive Officer (or an individual acting in such capacity), (ii) any employee of the Company or its subsidiaries who, in the discretion of the Committee for purposes of determining those employees who are “covered employees” under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, is likely to be among the four other highest compensated officers of the Company for the year in

* Composite copy reflecting all amendments and adjustments through May 14, 2002.

which an Award is made or payable, and (iii) any other employee of the Company or its subsidiaries designated by the Committee in its discretion.

“Exchange Act” shall mean the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

“Fair Market Value” shall mean, per share of Common Stock, the closing price of the Common Stock on the Nasdaq Stock Market of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (the “Nasdaq Stock Market”) on the applicable date, or, if the shares of Common Stock of the Company are then listed on a securities exchange, the closing price of the Common Stock on the principal securities exchange on which such shares are then traded, or, if there are no sales of Common Stock on the Nasdaq Stock Market or such principal securities exchange (as applicable) on such date, then the closing price of the Common Stock on the last previous day on which a sale on the Nasdaq Stock Market or such principal securities exchange (as applicable) is reported.

“Internal Revenue Code” means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

“Participant” shall mean an employee of the Company or any subsidiary or a consultant who is party to a consulting agreement with the Company or any subsidiary, in each case who is selected by the Committee to participate in the Plan.

3. SHARES SUBJECT TO THE PLAN. Subject to adjustment as provided in Section 16 of this Plan, the number of shares of Common Stock which shall be available for the grant of Awards under the Plan shall not exceed 2,500,000. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, in no event shall more than 600,000 shares of Common Stock (subject to adjustment as provided in Section 16 of this Plan) be available in the aggregate for the issuance of Common Stock pursuant to performance shares and restricted stock granted under the Plan. The shares of Common Stock issued under the Plan may be authorized and unissued shares, treasury

shares or shares acquired in the open market specifically for distribution under the Plan, as the Company may from time to time determine.

Shares of Common Stock subject to an Award under the Plan that, in whole or in part, expires unexercised or that is forfeited, terminated or canceled or is paid in cash in lieu of Common Stock, shares of Common Stock surrendered or withheld from any Award under the Plan to satisfy a Participant's income tax withholding obligation and shares of Common Stock owned by the Participant that are tendered to pay for the exercise of a stock option under the Plan shall thereafter again be available for grant under the Plan.

4. ADMINISTRATION. The Plan shall be administered by the Committee. A majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, and the acts of a majority shall be the acts of the Committee. Any determination of the Committee may be made, without a meeting, by a writing or writings signed by all of the members of the Committee. In addition, the Committee may authorize any one or more of their number or any officer of the Company to execute and deliver documents on behalf of the Committee and the Committee may delegate to one or more employees, agents or officers of the Company, or to one or more third party consultants,

-6-

accountants, lawyers or other advisors, such ministerial duties related to the operation of the Plan as it may deem appropriate.

Subject to the provisions of the Plan, the Committee (i) (or its delegate, within limits established by the Committee, with respect to non-Covered Employees and employees who are not subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act) shall select the Participants, determine the type, size and terms of Awards to be made to Participants, determine the shares or share units subject to Awards, the restrictions, conditions and contingencies to be applicable in the case of specific Awards, and the time or times at which Awards shall be exercisable or at which restrictions, conditions and contingencies shall lapse, and (ii) shall have the authority to interpret the Plan, to establish, amend and rescind any rules and regulations relating to the Plan, to determine the terms and provisions of any agreements entered into hereunder, and to make all other determinations necessary or advisable for the administration of the Plan. The Committee may correct any defect, supply any omission or reconcile any inconsistency in the Plan or in any Award in the manner and to the extent it shall deem desirable to carry it into effect. The determinations of the Committee in the administration of the Plan, as described herein, shall be final and conclusive. No member or alternate member of the Committee shall be liable for any such action or determination made in good faith.

5. ELIGIBILITY. All employees of the Company and its subsidiaries and consultants who are parties to consultancy agreements with the Company or any subsidiary, in each case who have demonstrated significant management potential or who have the capacity for contributing in a substantial measure to the successful performance of the Company, as determined by the Committee in its sole discretion, are eligible to be Participants in the Plan. In addition, the Committee may from time to time deem other employees of the Company or its subsidiaries or consultants eligible to participate in the Plan to receive awards of nonstatutory stock options. The granting of any Award to a Participant shall not entitle that Participant to, nor disqualify that Participant from, participation in any other grant of an Award.

6. AWARDS. Awards under the Plan may consist of: stock options (either incentive stock options within the meaning of Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code or nonstatutory stock options), performance shares, stock appreciation rights and restricted stock grants. Awards of performance shares and restricted stock may provide the Participant with dividends or dividend equivalents and voting rights prior to vesting (whether based on a period of time or based on attainment of specified performance conditions).

7. STOCK OPTIONS. The award instrument pursuant to which any incentive stock option is granted shall specify that the option granted thereby shall be treated as an incentive stock option. The award instrument pursuant to which any nonstatutory stock option is granted shall specify that the option granted thereby shall not be treated as an incentive stock option. The Committee shall establish the option price at the time each stock option is granted, which price shall not be less than 100% of the Fair Market Value of the Common Stock on the date of grant. Stock options shall be exercisable for such period as specified by the Committee, but in no event may options be exercisable for a period of more than ten years after their date of grant. The option price of each share as to which a stock option is exercised shall be paid in full at the time of such exercise. Such payment shall be made in cash, by tender of shares of Common Stock

-7-

owned by the Participant valued at Fair Market Value as of the date of exercise, subject to such guidelines for the tender of Common Stock as the Committee may establish, in such other consideration as the Committee deems appropriate, or by a combination of cash,

shares of Common Stock and such other consideration. The Committee, in its sole discretion, may grant to a Participant the right to transfer Common Stock acquired upon the exercise of a part of a stock option in payment of the exercise price payable upon immediate exercise of a further part of the stock option. In no event may any Participant receive stock options under the Plan with respect to more than 300,000 shares of Common Stock in any 12 month period.

8. PERFORMANCE SHARES. Performance shares may be granted in the form of actual shares of Common Stock or share units having a value equal to an identical number of shares of Common Stock. In the event that a stock certificate is issued in respect of performance shares, such certificate shall be registered in the name of the Participant but shall be held by the Company until the time the performance shares are earned. The performance conditions and the length of the performance period shall be determined by the Committee but in no event may a performance period be less than twelve months. The Committee shall determine in its sole discretion whether performance shares granted in the form of share units shall be paid in cash, Common Stock, or a combination of cash and Common Stock.

Awards of performance shares to a Covered Employee shall (unless the Committee determines otherwise) be subject to performance conditions based on the achievement (i) by the Company or a business unit of a specified target operating or net income or return on assets, (ii) by the Company or a business unit of specified target earnings per share or return on equity, (iii) of a targeted total shareholder return or (iv) any combination of the conditions set forth in clauses (i), (ii) and (iii) above. If an Award of performance shares is made on such basis, the Committee shall establish the relevant performance conditions within 90 days after the commencement of the performance period (or such later date as may be required or permitted by Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code). The Committee may, in its discretion, reduce or eliminate the amount of payment with respect to an Award of performance shares to a Covered Employee, notwithstanding the achievement of a specified performance condition. The maximum number of performance shares subject to any Award under the Plan to a Covered Employee is 300,000 for each twelve months during the performance period (or, to the extent the Award is paid in cash, the maximum dollar amount of any such Award is the equivalent cash value of such number of Shares at the closing price on the last trading day of the performance period). For purposes of the immediately preceding sentence, "trading day" shall mean a day in which the Shares are traded on the Nasdaq Stock Market or, if applicable, the principal securities exchange on which the shares of Common Stock are then traded. An Award of performance shares to a Participant who is a Covered Employee shall (unless the Committee determines otherwise) provide that in the event of the Participant's termination of employment prior to the end of the performance period for any reason, such Award will be payable only (A) if the applicable performance conditions are achieved and (B) to the extent, if any, as the Committee shall determine.

9. STOCK APPRECIATION RIGHTS. Stock Appreciation Rights ("SARs") may be granted only in connection with a stock option. A SAR granted in connection with an incentive stock option may be granted only when the incentive stock option is granted. A SAR granted in

-8-

connection with a nonstatutory stock option may be granted either when the related nonstatutory stock option is granted or at any time thereafter, including, in the case of any nonstatutory stock option resulting from the conversion of an incentive stock option to a nonstatutory stock option, simultaneously with or after the conversion. A Participant electing to exercise a SAR shall deliver written notice to the Company of the election identifying the SAR and the related option with respect to which the SAR was granted to the Participant, and specifying the number of whole shares of Common Stock with respect to which the Participant is exercising the SAR. Upon exercise of the SAR, the related option shall be deemed to be surrendered to the extent that the SAR is exercised. SARs may be exercised only (i) on a date when the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock exceeds the exercise price stated in the stock option related to that SAR, (ii) at a time and to the same extent as the related stock option is exercisable, (iii) by surrender to the Company, unexercised, of the related stock option or any applicable portion thereof, and (iv) in compliance with any restrictions that may be set forth in the Award agreement pursuant to which the SAR was granted. The amount payable upon exercise of a SAR may be paid by the Company in cash, or, if the Committee shall determine in its sole discretion, in shares of Common Stock (taken at their Fair Market Value at the time of exercise of the SAR) or in a combination of cash and shares of Common Stock; *provided, however*, that in no event shall the total number of shares of Common Stock that may be paid to a Participant pursuant to the exercise of a SAR exceed the total number of shares of Common Stock subject to the related stock option. A SAR shall terminate and may no longer be exercised upon the first to occur of (a) exercise or termination of the related stock option or (b) any termination date specified by the Committee at the time of grant of the SAR. In addition, the Committee may, in its sole discretion at any time before the occurrence of a Change of Control, amend, suspend, or terminate any SAR theretofore granted under the Plan without the holder's consent; *provided that*, in the case of amendment, no provision of the SAR, as amended, shall be in conflict with any provision of the Plan. The amendment, suspension, or termination of any SAR by the Committee as described in the immediately preceding sentence shall not affect the holder's rights in any related stock option.

10. RESTRICTED STOCK. Restricted stock may be granted in the form of actual shares of Common Stock or share units

having a value equal to an identical number of shares of Common Stock. In the event that a stock certificate is issued in respect of restricted stock, such certificate shall be registered in the name of the Participant but shall be held by the Company until the end of the restricted period. The employment conditions and the length of the period for vesting of restricted stock shall be established by the Committee at time of grant. A restricted period of not less than three years shall apply to shares of Common Stock subject to restricted stock grants under the Plan, except that a restricted period of less than three years may apply to such grants with respect to up to ten percent (10%) of the total shares of Common Stock available for the grant of Awards under the Plan. The Committee shall determine in its sole discretion whether restricted stock granted in the form of share units shall be paid in cash, Common Stock, or a combination of cash and Common Stock.

11. AWARD AGREEMENTS. Each Award under the Plan shall be evidenced by an agreement setting forth the terms and conditions, as determined by the Committee, which shall apply to such Award, in addition to the terms and conditions specified in the Plan.

-9-

12. CHANGE IN CONTROL. In the event of a Change in Control, as hereinafter defined, (i) the restrictions applicable to all shares of restricted stock and restricted share units shall lapse and such shares and share units shall be deemed fully vested, (ii) all restricted stock granted in the form of share units shall be paid in cash, (iii) all performance shares granted in the form of shares of Common Stock or share units shall be deemed to be earned in full, (iv) all performance shares granted in the form of share units shall be paid in cash, and (v) each a stock option and SAR that is not exercisable in full shall be deemed fully vested. The amount of any cash payment in respect of a restricted share unit or performance share unit shall be equal to: (A) in the event the Change in Control is the result of a tender offer or exchange offer for Common Stock, the final offer price per share paid for the Common Stock or (B) in the event the Change in Control is the result of any other occurrence, the aggregate per share value of Common Stock as determined by the Committee at such time. The Committee may, in its discretion, include such further provisions and limitations in any agreement documenting such Awards as it may deem equitable and in the best interests of the Company.

A "Change in Control" shall mean the occurrence of any one of the following events: (i) any "person" (as such term is defined in Section 3(a)(9) of the Exchange Act and as used in Sections 13(d)(3) and 14(d)(2) of the Exchange Act) is or becomes a "beneficial owner" (as defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of securities of the Company representing 25% or more of the combined voting power of the Company's then outstanding securities eligible to vote for the election of the Board of Directors (the "Company Voting Securities"); *provided, however*, that the event described in this paragraph (i) shall not be deemed to be a Change in Control by virtue of any of the following acquisitions: (A) by the Company or any of its subsidiaries, (B) by any employee benefit plan sponsored or maintained by the Company or any of its subsidiaries, (C) by any underwriter temporarily holding securities pursuant to an offering of such securities, or (D) pursuant to a Non-Control Transaction (as defined in clause (iii) below), (ii) during any period of not more than two years, individuals who constitute the Board of Directors of the Company as of the beginning of the period (the "Incumbent Directors") cease for any reason to constitute at least a majority of the Board of Directors, *provided* that any person becoming a director subsequent to the beginning of the period; whose election or nomination for election was approved by a vote (either by a specific vote or by approval of the proxy statement of the Company in which such person is named as a nominee for director, without objection to such nomination) of at least three-quarters of the Incumbent Directors who remain on the Board of Directors, including those directors whose election or nomination for election was previously so approved, shall also be deemed to be an Incumbent Director; *provided, however*, that no individual initially elected or nominated as a director of the Company as a result of an actual or threatened election contest with respect to directors or any other actual or threatened solicitation of proxies or consents by or on behalf of any person other than the Board of Directors shall be deemed to be an Incumbent Director; (iii) the consummation of a merger, consolidation, share exchange or similar form of corporate reorganization of the Company (or any such type of transaction involving the Company or any of its subsidiaries that requires the approval of the Company's shareholders, whether for the transaction or the issuance of securities in the transaction or otherwise) (a "Business Combination"), unless immediately following such Business Combination: (a) more than 60% of the total voting power of the corporation resulting from such Business Combination (including, without limitation, any corporation which directly or indirectly has beneficial ownership of 100%

-10-

of the Company Voting Securities) eligible to elect directors of such corporation is represented by shares that were Company Voting Securities immediately prior to such Business Combination (either by remaining outstanding or being converted), and such voting power is in substantially the same proportion as the voting power of such Company Voting Securities immediately prior to the Business Combination, (b) no person (other than any holding company resulting from such Business Combination, any employee

benefit plan sponsored or maintained by the Company (or the corporation resulting from such Business Combination)) immediately following the consummation of the Business Combination becomes the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of 25% or more of the total voting power of the outstanding voting securities eligible to elect directors of the corporation resulting from such Business Combination, and (c) at least a majority of the members of the board of directors of the corporation resulting from such Business Combination were Incumbent Directors at the time of the approval of the execution of the initial agreement providing for such Business Combination (any Business Combination which satisfies the conditions in clauses (a), (b) and (c) is referred to hereunder as a “Non-Control Transaction”); or (iv) the shareholders of the Company approve a plan of complete liquidation or dissolution of the Company or the sale of all or substantially all of its assets. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Change in Control of the Company shall not be deemed to occur solely because any person acquires beneficial ownership of more than 25% of the Company Voting Securities as a result of the acquisition of Company Voting Securities by the Company which reduces the number of Company Voting Securities outstanding; *provided, that* if after such acquisition by the Company such person becomes the beneficial owner of additional Company Voting Securities that increases the percentage of outstanding Company Voting Securities beneficially owned by such person, a Change in Control of the Company shall then occur.

13. WITHHOLDING. The Company shall have the right to deduct from any payment to be made pursuant to the Plan the amount of any taxes required by law to be withheld therefrom, or to require a Participant to pay to the Company such amount required to be withheld prior to the issuance or delivery of any shares of Common Stock or the payment of cash under the Plan. The Committee may, in its discretion, permit a Participant to elect to satisfy such withholding obligation by having the Company retain the number of shares of Common Stock whose Fair Market Value equals the amount required to be withheld. Any fraction of a share of Common Stock required to satisfy such obligation shall be disregarded and the amount due shall instead be paid in cash to the Participant.

14. NONTRANSFERABILITY. No Award shall be assignable or transferable, and no right or interest of any Participant shall be subject to any lien, obligation or liability of the Participant, except by will or the laws of descent and distribution. Notwithstanding the immediately preceding sentence, the Committee may, subject to the terms and conditions it may specify, permit a Participant to transfer any nonstatutory stock options granted to him pursuant to the Plan to one or more of his immediate family members or to trusts established in whole or in part for the benefit of the Participant and/or one or more of such immediate family members. During the lifetime of the Participant, a nonstatutory stock option shall be exercisable only by the Participant or by the immediate family member or trust to whom such stock option has been transferred pursuant to the immediately preceding sentence. For purposes of the Plan, (i) the term “immediate family” shall mean the Participant’s spouse and issue (including adopted and step children) and (ii) the phrase “immediate family members and trusts established in whole or

-11-

in part for the benefit of the Participant and/or one or more of such immediate family members” shall be further limited, if necessary, so that neither the transfer of a nonstatutory stock option to such immediate family member or trust, nor the ability of a Participant to make such a transfer shall have adverse consequences to the Company or the Participant by reason of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

15. NO RIGHT TO EMPLOYMENT OR CONSULTANCY. No person shall have any claim or right to be granted an Award, and the grant of an Award shall not be construed as giving a Participant the right to be retained in the employ of the Company or any subsidiary or retained as a consultant with the Company or any subsidiary. Further, the Company and its subsidiaries expressly reserve the right at any time to dismiss a Participant free from any liability, or any claim under the Plan, except as provided herein or in any agreement entered into hereunder. Any obligation of the Company under the Plan to make any payment at any future date merely constitutes the unsecured promise of the Company to make such payment from its general assets in accordance with the Plan, and no Participant shall have any interest in, or lien or prior claim upon, any property of the Company or any subsidiary by reason of that obligation.

16. ADJUSTMENT OF AND CHANGES IN COMMON STOCK. In the event of any change in the outstanding shares of Common Stock by reason of any stock dividend or split, recapitalization, merger, consolidation, spinoff, combination or exchange of shares or other corporate change, or any distributions to common shareholders other than regular cash dividends, the Committee may make such substitution or adjustment, if any, as it deems to be equitable, as to the number or kind of shares of Common Stock or other securities issued or reserved for issuance pursuant to the Plan and outstanding Awards (including adjustments to the option and exercise prices of outstanding Awards). Except pursuant to the previous sentence, the option or exercise price of outstanding Awards may not be reduced.

17. AMENDMENT. The Board of Directors may amend, suspend or terminate the Plan or any portion thereof at any time, provided that no amendment shall be made without stockholder approval if such approval is necessary in order for the Plan to continue to comply with Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act.

18. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION. The Plan shall be effective as of January 1, 1999, subject to its approval by shareholders of the Company. Subject to earlier termination pursuant to Section 16 of this Plan or by the action of the Board of Directors, the Plan shall remain in effect until December 31, 2008.

19. PURCHASE FOR INVESTMENT. Each person acquiring Common Stock pursuant to any Award may be required by the Company to furnish a representation that he or she is acquiring the Common Stock so acquired as an investment and not with a view to distribution thereof if the Company, in its sole discretion, determines that such representation is required to ensure that a resale or other disposition of the Common Stock would not involve a violation of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or of applicable blue sky laws. Any investment representation so furnished shall no longer be applicable at any time such representation is no longer necessary for such purposes.

-12-

20. AWARDS IN SUBSTITUTION FOR AWARDS GRANTED BY OTHER COMPANIES. Awards may be granted under the Plan in substitution for awards held by employees of a company who become employees of the Company or any subsidiary as a result of the merger or consolidation of the employer company with the Company or any subsidiary, or the acquisition by the Company or any subsidiary of the assets of the employer company, or the acquisition by the Company or any subsidiary of stock of the employer company as a result of which it becomes a subsidiary. The terms, provisions, and benefits of the substitute Awards so granted may vary from the terms, provisions, and benefits set forth in or authorized by the Plan to such extent as the Committee at the time of the grant may deem appropriate to conform, in whole or in part, to the terms, provisions, and benefits of the awards in substitution for which they are granted.

21. GOVERNING LAW. The provisions of the Plan shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

-13-

June 13, 2002

CONMED Corporation
525 French Road
Utica, New York 13502-5944

Dear Sirs:

In connection with the registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Act"), by CONMED Corporation, a New York corporation (the "Company"), of 2,100,000 shares of the Company's Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share (the "Shares"), I have examined such corporate records, certificates and other documents and such questions of law as I have considered necessary or appropriate for the purposes of this opinion. The Shares are to be issued pursuant to the Stock Option Plan for Non-Employee Directors of CONMED Corporation, the CONMED Corporation 1999 Long-Term Incentive Plan and the CONMED Corporation 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (collectively, the "Plans").

Upon the basis of such examination, I advise you that, in my opinion, the Shares have been duly authorized and when the Registration Statement has become effective under the Act and the Shares have been duly issued as provided in the Plans, the Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

In rendering the foregoing opinion, I have, with your approval, relied as to certain matters on information obtained from officers of the Company and other sources believed by me to be responsible, and I have assumed that the signatures on all documents examined by me are genuine, assumptions which I have not independently verified.

I hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement relating to the Shares. In giving such consent, I do not thereby admit that I am in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Act.

Very truly yours,

/s/ DANIEL S. JONAS

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of our report dated February 5, 2002 relating to the financial statements and financial statement schedule of CONMED Corporation, which appears in CONMED Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP

Syracuse, New York

June 11, 2002