

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT  
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of the earliest event reported): February 11, 2021

**BECTON DICKINSON & COMPANY**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

New Jersey  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

001-04802  
(Commission File Number)

22-0760120  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

1 Becton Drive  
Franklin Lakes, New Jersey  
(Address of principal executive offices)

07417-1880  
(Zip Code)

(201) 847-6800  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)  
N/A  
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)  
 Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)  
 Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))  
 Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class	Trading Symbol	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Common stock, par value \$1.00	BDX	New York Stock Exchange
Depository Shares, each representing a 1/20th interest in a share of 6.00% Mandatory Convertible Preferred Stock, Series B	BDXB	New York Stock Exchange
1.000% Notes due December 15, 2022	BDX22A	New York Stock Exchange
1.900% Notes due December 15, 2026	BDX26	New York Stock Exchange
1.401% Notes due May 24, 2023	BDX23A	New York Stock Exchange
3.020% Notes due May 24, 2025	BDX25	New York Stock Exchange
0.174% Notes due June 4, 2021	BDX/21	New York Stock Exchange
0.632% Notes due June 4, 2023	BDX/23A	New York Stock Exchange
1.208% Notes due June 4, 2026	BDX/26A	New York Stock Exchange

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act

**Item 2.03. Creation of a Direct Financial Obligation or an Obligation Under an Off-balance Sheet Arrangement of a Registrant.**

On February 11, 2021, Becton Dickinson and Company (the “Company” or “BD”) issued \$1,000,000,000 aggregate principal amount of 1.957% Notes due February 11, 2031 (the “Notes”) in an underwritten public offering pursuant to the indenture, dated March 1, 1997, between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (the “Indenture”).

The Company may redeem the Notes, in whole or in part, (A) at any time prior to November 11, 2030, at the applicable “make-whole” redemption price described in the Indenture and the Notes, and (B) at any time on or after November 11, 2030, at 100% of the principal amount of the Notes being redeemed. In each case, the redemption price will also include accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the date of redemption.

If a Change of Control Triggering Event (as defined in the Notes) occurs with respect to the Notes, unless the Company has executed its right to redeem such Notes as described above, the Company will be required to make an offer to each holder of outstanding Notes to repurchase all or any portion of that holder’s Notes (in integral multiples of \$1,000) at a purchase price equal to 101% of the principal amount thereof plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of purchase, subject to the rights of holders of such Notes on the relevant record date to receive interest due on the relevant interest payment date.

Each of the following constitutes an event of default under the Indenture with respect to the Notes: (1) failure to pay any installment of interest on any security of such series when due and payable, continued for 30 days; (2) failure to pay the principal when due of such series, whether at its stated maturity or otherwise; (3) failure to observe or perform any other covenants, conditions or agreements of the Company with respect to such securities for 60 days after the Company receives notice of such failure; or (4) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization. If an event of default occurs, the principal amount of the Notes may be accelerated pursuant to the Indenture.

The Indenture includes requirements that must be met if the Company consolidates or merges with, or sells all or substantially all of the Company’s assets to, another entity.

The foregoing summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the text of the Indenture, a copy of which is incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(a) to the Company’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 31, 1997, and the Notes, the form of which is attached as Exhibit 4.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

The Company intends to use the net proceeds from the offering of the Notes, together with cash on hand, to repay the entire \$1.0 billion aggregate principal amount outstanding of its 3.125% Notes due 2021 (the “3.125 Notes”), and to pay accrued interest, related premiums, fees and expenses in connection therewith.

**Item 8.01. Other Events.**

On February 11, 2021, the Company caused to be delivered to the holders of the 3.125% Notes a notice of full redemption with respect to the entire \$1.0 billion aggregate principal amount of its 3.125% Notes. The 3.125% Notes are expected to be fully redeemed on March 13, 2021 (the “Redemption Date”) at a redemption price equal to the greater of (1) 100% of the principal amount of such 3.125% Notes and (2) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments on the 3.125% Notes, discounted to the Redemption Date by the treasury rate less a discount in accordance with the terms of the indenture governing the 3.125% Notes, plus in each case, accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the Redemption Date on the principal balance of the 3.125% Notes.

The foregoing does not constitute a notice of redemption with respect to the 3.125% notes.

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**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

<a href="#">4.1</a>	Form of 1.957% Notes due February 11, 2031
<a href="#">5.1</a>	Opinion of Gary DeFazio, Senior Vice President, Corporate Secretary and Associate General Counsel of Becton, Dickinson and Company.
<a href="#">5.2</a>	Opinion of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom LLP.
<a href="#">23.1</a>	Consent of Gary DeFazio, Senior Vice President, Corporate Secretary and Associate General Counsel of Becton, Dickinson and Company (included as part of Exhibit 5.1).
<a href="#">23.2</a>	Consent of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP (included as part of Exhibit 5.2).
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY (Registrant)

By: /s/ Gary DeFazio  
Gary DeFazio  
Senior Vice President, Corporate Secretary and Associate General Counsel

Date: February 11, 2021

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Unless this certificate is presented by an authorized representative of The Depository Trust Company, a New York corporation (“DTC”), to the Company or its agent for registration of transfer, exchange, or payment, and any certificate issued is registered in the name of Cede & Co. or in such other name as is requested by an authorized representative of DTC (and any payment is made to Cede & Co. or to such other entity as is requested by an authorized representative of DTC), ANY TRANSFER, PLEDGE, OR OTHER USE HEREOF FOR VALUE OR OTHERWISE BY OR TO ANY PERSON IS WRONGFUL inasmuch as the registered owner hereof, Cede & Co., has an interest herein.

BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY

1.957% Notes due February 11, 2031

CUSIP No. 075887 CL1

No.

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BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY, a New Jersey corporation (such corporation, and its successors and assigns under the Indenture hereinafter referred to, being herein called the “Company”) for value received, hereby promises to pay to Cede & Co., or registered assigns, the principal sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on February 11, 2031 and to pay interest, on February 11 and August 11 of each year, commencing August 11, 2021, on said principal sum at the rate of 1.957% per annum, from February 11, 2021 or from the most recent interest payment date to which interest has been paid or provided for, as the case may be, until payment of said principal sum has been made or duly provided for; *provided, however*, that payment of interest may be made at the option of the Company (i) by check mailed to the address of the person entitled thereto as such address shall appear on the register of Notes or (ii) by transfer in immediately available funds to an account maintained by the person entitled thereto as specified in the register of Notes. The interest so payable on any February 11 or August 11 shall, subject to certain exceptions provided in the Indenture referred to on the reverse hereof, be paid to the person in whose name this Note is registered at the close of business on the January 27 or July 27 immediately preceding the applicable interest payment date.

Reference is made to the further provisions of this Note set forth on the reverse hereof. Such further provisions shall for all purposes have the same effect as though fully set forth at this place.

This Note shall not be valid or become obligatory for any purpose until the certificate of authentication hereon shall have been manually, by facsimile or electronically signed by the Trustee under the Indenture referred to on the reverse hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Becton, Dickinson and Company has caused this Note to be executed in its name and on its behalf by its duly authorized officers, and has caused its corporate seal to be affixed hereunto or imprinted hereon.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Christopher Reidy  
Title: Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Administrative Officer

(CORPORATE SEAL)

Attest:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Gary DeFazio  
Title: Senior Vice President, Corporate Secretary and Associate General Counsel

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TRUSTEE'S CERTIFICATE  
OF AUTHENTICATION

This Note is one of the Securities of the series referred to herein issued pursuant to the within-mentioned Indenture.

Dated:

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A.;

as Trustee

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Officer

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[Reverse of Security]

BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY

1.957% Notes due February 11, 2031

This Note is one of a duly authorized issue of debentures, notes or other evidences of indebtedness of the Company (herein called the "Securities") of the series hereinafter specified, all issued or to be issued under and pursuant to an Indenture, dated as of March 1, 1997 (as amended or supplemented, herein called the "Indenture"), duly executed and delivered by the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank (formerly known as The Chase Manhattan Bank), as Trustee (herein called the "Trustee"), to which the Indenture and all indentures supplemental thereto reference is hereby made for a statement of the respective rights, limitations of rights, duties, obligations and immunities thereunder of the Company, the Trustee and the holders of the Securities. The Securities may be issued in one or more series, which different series may be issued in various aggregate principal amounts, may mature at different times, may bear interest (if any) at different rates, may be subject to different redemption provisions (if any), may be subject to different sinking, purchase or analogous funds (if any) and may otherwise vary as in the Indenture provided. This Note is one of a series designated as the 1.957% Notes due February 11, 2031 (the "Notes") limited in aggregate principal amount to \$1,000,000,000 (except as in the Indenture provided). The Company may, from time to time, without the consent of the existing holders of the Notes, issue additional notes under the Indenture having the same terms as the Notes in all respects, except for issue date, issue price and the initial interest payment date. Any such additional notes shall be consolidated with and form a single series with the Notes. Terms defined in the Indenture have the same definitions herein unless otherwise specified.

In case an Event of Default, as defined in the Indenture, with respect to the Notes shall have occurred and be continuing, the principal hereof and interest hereon may be declared, and upon such declaration shall become, due and payable, in the manner, with the effect and subject to the conditions provided in the Indenture.

The Indenture permits, with certain exceptions as therein provided, the amendment thereof and the modification of the rights and obligations of the Company and the rights of the holders of the Securities of any series at any time by the Company and the Trustee with the consent of the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Securities of such series, each affected series voting separately. The Indenture also contains provisions permitting the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Securities of any series, on behalf of the holders of all the Securities of such series, to waive certain past defaults under the Indenture and their consequences. Any such consent or waiver by or on behalf of the holder of this Note shall be conclusive and binding upon such holder and upon all future holders of this Note and of any Note issued upon the registration of transfer hereof or in exchange hereof or in lieu hereof whether or not notation of such consent or waiver is made upon this Note or such other Note.

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Subject to the terms of the Indenture, the Company may elect either (i) to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to the Notes or (ii) to be released from its obligations with respect to certain covenants applicable to the Notes, upon compliance by the Company with certain conditions set forth therein, which provisions apply to this Note.

No reference herein to the Indenture and no provision of this Note or of the Indenture shall alter or impair the obligation of the Company, which is absolute and unconditional, to pay the principal of and interest on this Note at the place, at the respective times, at the rate and in the coin or currency prescribed herein.

The Notes are redeemable as a whole or in part at the option of the Company at any time prior to November 11, 2030 (three months prior to the maturity date), at a redemption price equal to the greater of (1) 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed and (2) the sum of the present values of the Remaining Scheduled Payments on the Notes (excluding any accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date), discounted to the redemption date on a semiannual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Treasury Rate plus 15 basis points, plus in each case, accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date on the principal balance of the Notes being redeemed. At any time on or after November 11, 2030 (three months prior to the maturity date), the Company may redeem the Notes, in whole or in part, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date on the principal balance of the Notes being redeemed. For the purposes hereof:

“Remaining Scheduled Payments” means, with respect to each Note being redeemed, the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on that Note that would be due after the related redemption date (assuming that such Note to be redeemed matured on November 11, 2030) but for the redemption; *provided, however*, that if the redemption date is not an interest payment date with respect to that Note, the amount of the next succeeding scheduled interest payment on that Note that would have been due shall be deemed reduced by the amount of interest accrued on the Note to the redemption date.

“Treasury Rate” means, for any redemption date, the annual rate equal to the semiannual equivalent yield to maturity (or interpolated yield to maturity on a day count basis) of the Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue equal to the Comparable Treasury Price, expressed as a percentage of its principal amount, for such redemption date. The yield of the Comparable Treasury Issue shall be computed as of the second Business Day immediately preceding the redemption date.

“Comparable Treasury Issue” means the United States Treasury security selected by an Independent Investment Banker as having an actual or interpolated maturity comparable to the remaining term of the Notes to be redeemed (assuming that such Notes to be redeemed matured on November 11, 2030) that would be used, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the applicable remaining term of the Notes being redeemed.

“Independent Investment Banker” means one of the Reference Treasury Dealers appointed by the Company.

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“Reference Treasury Dealer” means any of the four nationally recognized investment banking firms the Company may use to select a Comparable Treasury Issue that the Company shall appoint from time to time that are primary dealers of U.S. government securities in New York City; *provided, however*, that if any of the firms ceases to be a primary dealer of U.S. government securities in New York City, the Company shall appoint another nationally recognized investment banking firm as a substitute therefor.

“Comparable Treasury Price” means, for any redemption date, (1) the average of four Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations obtained by the Company for that redemption date after excluding the highest and lowest of those Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations; or (2) if the Company obtains fewer than four Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all those quotations.

“Reference Treasury Dealer Quotation” means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by the Company, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Company by a Reference Treasury Dealer as of 3:30 p.m., New York time, on the third Business Day preceding that redemption date. The Company shall seek Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations in respect of any redemption date from each of the then-existing Reference Treasury Dealers.

Notice of any redemption described above shall be mailed at least 10 days but not more than 30 days before the redemption date to each holder of the Notes or portions thereof called for redemption. On and after any redemption date, the Notes or any portion of the Notes called for redemption shall stop accruing interest. On or before any redemption date, the Company shall deposit with the paying agent or the Trustee money sufficient to pay the accrued interest on the Notes to be redeemed and their redemption price. If less than all of the Notes are redeemed, such Notes should be redeemed in accordance with DTC procedures.

If a Change of Control Triggering Event occurs, unless the Notes have been earlier redeemed, the Company shall be required to make an offer (a “Change of Control Offer”) to each holder of outstanding Notes to repurchase all or any portion (equal to \$1,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof) of that holder’s Notes at a purchase price equal to 101% of the principal amount thereof plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the date of purchase (the “Change of Control Payment”), subject to the rights of holders of Notes on the relevant record date to receive interest due on the relevant interest payment date. For purposes hereof:

“Change of Control” means the occurrence of any one of the following:

(i) the direct or indirect sale, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (other than by way of merger or consolidation), in one or a series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company and its subsidiaries taken as a whole to any Person (including any “person” (as that term is defined in Section 13(d)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”))) other than to the Company or one of its subsidiaries;

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(ii) the consummation of any transaction (including without limitation, any merger or consolidation) the result of which is that any Person (including any “person” (as that term is defined in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act)), other than the Company or one of its subsidiaries, becomes the “beneficial owner” (as defined in Rules 13d-3 and 13d-5 under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the outstanding Voting Stock of the Company or other Voting Stock into which the Company’s Voting Stock is reclassified, consolidated, exchange or changed, measured by voting power rather than number of shares; or

(iii) the adoption of a plan relating to the liquidation or dissolution of the Company.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a transaction shall not be considered to be a Change of Control if: (a) the Company becomes a direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of a holding company and (b)(x) immediately following that transaction, the direct or indirect holders of the Voting Stock of the holding company are substantially the same as the holders of the Company’s Voting Stock immediately prior to that transaction or (y) immediately following that transaction, no Person is the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the Voting Stock of such holding company.

“Change of Control Triggering Event” means the Notes are rated below Investment Grade by each of the Rating Agencies on any date during the period (the “Trigger Period”) commencing on the date of the first public announcement by the Company of any Change of Control (or pending Change of Control) and ending 60 days following consummation of that Change of Control (which Trigger Period shall be extended following consummation of a Change of Control for so long as any of the Rating Agencies has publicly announced that it is considering a possible ratings downgrade and the downgrade would result in a Change of Control Triggering Event). Unless at least two Rating Agencies are providing a rating for the Notes at the commencement of any Trigger Period, the Notes shall be deemed to be rated below Investment Grade by the Rating Agencies during that Trigger Period. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no Change of Control Triggering Event shall be deemed to have occurred in connection with (i) any particular Change of Control unless and until such Change of Control has actually been consummated or (ii) any reduction in rating if the Rating Agencies making the reduction in rating to which this definition would otherwise apply do not announce or publicly confirm or inform the trustee in writing at its request that the reduction was the result, in whole or in part, of any event or circumstance comprised of or arising as a result of, or in respect of, a Change of Control (whether or not the Change of Control shall have occurred at the time of the reduction in rating). In no event shall the Trustee be charged with the responsibility of monitoring the Company’s ratings.

“Fitch” means Fitch Ratings, Inc. and its successors.

“Investment Grade” means a rating of Baa3 or better by Moody’s (or its equivalent under any successor rating category of Moody’s); and a rating of BBB- or better by S&P (or its equivalent under any successor rating category of S&P); and a rating of BBB- or better by Fitch (or its equivalent under any successor rating category of Fitch) or the equivalent investment grade credit rating from any additional Rating Agency or Rating Agencies selected by the Company in accordance with the definition of “Rating Agency.”

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“Moody’s” means Moody’s Investors Service, Inc., a subsidiary of Moody’s Corporation, and its successors.

“Person” means any individual, corporation, partnership, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization, limited liability company or government or other entity.

“Rating Agency” means each of Fitch, Moody’s and S&P; provided, that if any of Fitch, Moody’s or S&P ceases to provide rating services to issuers or investors or fails to make a rating of the Notes publicly available for reasons outside of the Company’s control, the Company may appoint a replacement for that Rating Agency.

“S&P” means S&P Global Ratings, a division of S&P Global Inc., and its successors.

“Voting Stock” of any specified Person as of any date means the capital stock of that Person that is at the time entitled to vote generally in the election of the board of directors of that Person.

Within 30 days following the date upon which the Change of Control Triggering Event has occurred, or at the Company’s option, prior to any Change of Control but after the public announcement of the pending Change of Control, the Company shall send, in accordance with DTC procedures or otherwise, a notice to each holder of the Notes, with a copy to the Trustee, describing the transaction or transactions that constitute or may constitute the Change of Control Triggering Event and offering to repurchase the Notes on the date specified in the notice, which date must be no earlier than 30 days nor later than 60 days from the date the notice is mailed, other than as may be required by law (the “Change of Control Payment Date”). If the notice is mailed prior to the date of consummation of the Change of Control, it shall state that the Change of Control Offer is conditioned on the Change of Control being consummated on or prior to the Change of Control Payment Date.

If holders of Notes elect to have Notes purchased pursuant to a Change of Control Offer, they must surrender their Notes, with the form entitled “Option of Holder to Elect Purchase” on the reverse of this Note completed, to the Trustee at the address specified in the notice, or transfer their Notes to the Trustee by book-entry transfer pursuant to the applicable procedures of the Trustee, prior to the close of business on the third Business Day prior to the Change of Control Payment Date. On or prior to 12:00 p.m., New York City time, on the Business Day immediately preceding the Change of Control Payment Date, the Company shall, to the extent lawful, deposit with the paying agent or the Trustee an amount equal to the Change of Control Payment in respect of all the Notes or portions of the Notes properly tendered.

On the Change of Control Payment Date, the Company shall, to the extent lawful, (i) accept for payment all Notes or portions of Notes properly tendered pursuant to the Change of Control Offer, (ii) deposit with the Trustee or a paying agent the required payment for all properly tendered Notes or portions of Notes not validly withdrawn, and (iii) deliver or cause to be delivered to the Trustee the Notes properly accepted, together with an officer’s certificate stating the aggregate principal amount of Notes or portions of Notes being repurchased. The paying agent or the Trustee, as applicable, shall promptly deliver to each holder of the Notes properly tendered the Change of Control Payment for such Notes, and the Trustee shall promptly authenticate and mail (or cause to be transferred by book entry) to each holder of the Notes a new Note equal in principal amount to any unpurchased portion of the Notes surrendered, if any; provided that each new Note shall be in a minimum principal amount equal to \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

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The Company shall not be required to make a Change of Control Offer if a third party makes such an offer in the manner, at the times and otherwise in compliance with the requirements for such an offer made by the Company and that third party purchases all Notes properly tendered and not withdrawn under its offer.

If holders of not less than 90% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Notes validly tender and do not withdraw such Notes in a Change of Control Offer and the Company, or any third party making such an offer in lieu of the Company as set forth above, purchases all of the Notes validly tendered and not withdrawn by such holders, the Company or such third party shall have the right, upon not less than 10 days nor more than 60 days' prior notice, provided that such notice is given not more than 30 days following such repurchase pursuant to the Change of Control Offer as set forth above, to redeem all Notes that remain outstanding following such purchase on a date specified in such notice (the "Second Change of Control Payment Date") and at a price in cash equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of Notes repurchased plus any accrued and unpaid interest on the Notes repurchased to, but not including, the Second Change of Control Payment Date.

To the extent that the provisions of any securities laws or regulations conflict with the provisions herein, the Company shall comply with the applicable securities laws and regulations and shall not be deemed to have breached its obligations under the provisions herein by virtue of such conflicts.

Upon the presentment for registration of transfer of this Note at the office or agency of the Company designated for such purpose pursuant to the Indenture, a new Note or Notes of authorized denominations for an equal aggregate principal amount shall be issued to the transferee in exchange therefor, subject to the limitations provided in the Indenture, without charge except for any tax or other governmental charge imposed in connection therewith.

Prior to due presentment for registration of transfer of this Note, the Company, the Trustee or any Note registrar, co-registrar, paying agent or authenticating agent, may deem and treat the registered holder hereof as the absolute owner of this Note (whether or not this Note shall be overdue and notwithstanding any notation of ownership or other writing hereon), for the purpose of receiving payment hereof, or an account hereof, and for all other purposes, and the Company, the Trustee and any Note registrar, co-registrar, paying agent and authenticating agent shall not be affected by any notice to the contrary.

The Trustee agrees to accept and act upon instructions or directions given pursuant to the Indenture and sent using e-mail, facsimile transmission, secure electronic transmission or other similar electronic methods, provided, however, that the Trustee shall have received an incumbency certificate listing persons designated to give such instructions or directions and containing specimen signatures of such designated persons, which such incumbency certificate shall be amended and replaced whenever a person is to be added or deleted from the listing. If the Company elects to give the Trustee e-mail or facsimile instructions (or instructions by a similar electronic method) and the Trustee in its discretion elects to act upon such instructions, the Trustee's reasonable understanding of such instructions shall be deemed controlling. The Trustee shall not be liable for any losses, costs or expenses arising directly or indirectly from the Trustee's good faith reliance upon and compliance with such instructions notwithstanding such instructions conflict or are inconsistent with a subsequent written instruction. The Company agrees to assume all risks arising out of the use of such electronic methods to submit instructions and directions to the Trustee, including without limitation the risk of the Trustee acting on unauthorized instructions, and the risk of interception and misuse by third parties.

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OPTION OF HOLDER TO ELECT PURCHASE

If you want to elect to have this Note purchased by the Company pursuant to a Change of Control Offer, check the appropriate box below:

Change of Control Offer

If you want to elect to have only part of this Note purchased by the Company pursuant to a Change of Control Offer, state the amount you elect to have purchased:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (equal to \$1,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Sign exactly as your name appears on the face of this Note)

Tax Identification No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Guarantee\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Participant in a recognized Signature Guarantee Medallion Program (or other signature guarantor acceptable to the Trustee).

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February 11, 2021

Becton, Dickinson and Company  
1 Becton Drive  
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417-1880

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am Senior Vice President, Corporate Secretary and Associate General Counsel of Becton, Dickinson and Company, a New Jersey corporation (the "Company"), and have been requested to furnish this opinion in connection with the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-224464) and Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 thereto (the "Registration Statement") filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") under the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Act"), relating to the issuance by the Company of its 1.957% Notes due 2031 in an aggregate principal amount of \$1,000,000,000 (the "Notes"). The Notes are being offered and sold pursuant to a Prospectus, dated May 17, 2019, as supplemented by the Prospectus Supplement, dated February 8, 2021 (together, the "Prospectus"), filed with the Commission on February 8, 2021 pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2) under the Act, and an Underwriting Agreement, dated February 8, 2021 (the "Underwriting Agreement"), among the Company and the representatives of the several underwriters named therein.

In connection with the furnishing of this opinion, I have examined (a) copies of the Registration Statement and of the Prospectus; (b) a copy of the Indenture, dated as of March 1, 1997, between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (successor to JP Morgan Chase Bank), as Trustee (the "Indenture"); (c) an executed copy of the Underwriting Agreement, relating to the sale by the Company to the underwriters of the Notes; and (d) the global certificates evidencing the Notes executed by the Company and registered in the name of Cede & Co., delivered by the Company to the Trustee for authentication and delivery.

I also have examined such corporate records of the Company, such agreements and instruments, such certificates of public officials, such certificates of other officers of the Company and other persons, such questions of law and such other documents as I have deemed necessary as a basis for the opinions hereinafter expressed.

In such examination, except with respect to documents executed by officers of the Company in my presence, I have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, including electronic signatures, the legal capacity of natural persons, the authenticity of all documents submitted to me as originals, the conformity to original documents of all documents submitted to me as duplicates or certified or photocopied copies and the authenticity of the originals of such latter documents. I also have assumed that the Indenture is the valid and legally binding obligation of the Trustee.

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Based on the foregoing, I am of the opinion that:

- (i) The Company has been duly incorporated and is validly existing as a corporation in good standing under the laws of the State of New Jersey, with power and authority (corporate and other) to own its properties and conduct its business as described in the Prospectus.
- (ii) The Company has the corporate power and authority to execute, deliver and perform all of its obligations under the Underwriting Agreement, the Indenture and the Notes.
- (iii) The Underwriting Agreement, the Indenture and the Notes have been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company.

I am a member of the Bar of the State of New Jersey. The foregoing opinion is limited to the laws of the State of New Jersey.

I hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as Exhibit 5.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 11, 2021. In addition, I consent to the reference to me under the caption "Legal Matters" in the Prospectus.

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This opinion is rendered solely to you in connection with the above matter. This opinion may not be relied upon by you for any other purpose or relied upon by or furnished to any other person without my prior written consent.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Gary De Fazio

Gary DeFazio

Senior Vice President, Corporate Secretary and Associate General Counsel

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SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM LLP  
ONE MANHATTAN WEST  
NEW YORK, NY 10001

TEL: (212) 735-3000  
FAX: (212) 735-2000  
www.skadden.com

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February 11, 2021

Becton, Dickinson and Company  
1 Becton Drive  
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417-1880

RE: Becton, Dickinson and Company  
Registration Statement on Form S-3

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as special United States counsel to Becton, Dickinson and Company, a New Jersey corporation (the "Company"), in connection with the public offering of \$1,000,000,000 aggregate principal amount of the Company's 1.957% Notes due 2031 (the "Notes") to be issued under the Indenture, dated as of March 1, 1997 (the "Indenture"), between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (successor to JP Morgan Chase Bank), as trustee (the "Trustee").

This opinion is being furnished in accordance with the requirements of Item 601(b)(5) of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act").

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In rendering the opinion stated herein, we have examined and relied upon the following:

- (a) the registration statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-224464) of the Company relating to debt securities and other securities of the Company filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") on April 26, 2018 under the Securities Act allowing for delayed offerings pursuant to Rule 415 of the General Rules and Regulations under the Securities Act (the "Rules and Regulations"), and Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 thereto, including information deemed to be a part of the registration statement pursuant to Rule 430B of the Rules and Regulations (such registration statement, as so amended, being hereinafter referred to as the "Registration Statement");
- (b) the prospectus, dated May 17, 2019 (the "Base Prospectus"), which forms a part of and is included in the Registration Statement;
- (c) the preliminary prospectus supplement, dated February 8, 2021 (together with the Base Prospectus, the "Preliminary Prospectus"), relating to the offering of the Notes, in the form filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) of the Rules and Regulations;
- (d) the prospectus supplement, dated February 8, 2021 (together with the Base Prospectus, the "Prospectus"), relating to the offering of the Notes, in the form filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) of the Rules and Regulations;
- (e) an executed copy of the Underwriting Agreement, dated February 8, 2021 (the "Underwriting Agreement"), among the Company and Barclays Capital Inc., Citigroup Global Markets Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC as representatives of the several underwriters named therein (the "Underwriters"), relating to the sale by the Company to the Underwriters of the Notes;
- (f) an executed copy of the Indenture; and
- (g) the global certificates evidencing the Notes executed by the Company and registered in the name of Cede & Co. (the "Note Certificates"), delivered by the Company to the Trustee for authentication and delivery.

We have also examined originals or copies, certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of such records of the Company and such agreements, certificates and receipts of public officials, certificates of officers or other representatives of the Company and others, and such other documents as we have deemed necessary or appropriate as a basis for the opinion stated below.

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In our examination, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, including electronic signatures, the legal capacity and competency of all natural persons, the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, the conformity to original documents of all documents submitted to us as facsimile, electronic, certified or photocopied copies, and the authenticity of the originals of such copies. As to any facts relevant to the opinion stated herein that we did not independently establish or verify, we have relied upon statements and representations of officers and other representatives of the Company and others and of public officials, including the factual representations and warranties contained in the Underwriting Agreement.

We do not express any opinion with respect to the laws of any jurisdiction other than the laws of the State of New York (the "Opined on Law").

As used herein, "Transaction Documents" means the Underwriting Agreement, the Indenture and the Note Certificates.

Based upon the foregoing and subject to the qualifications and assumptions stated herein, we are of the opinion that when the Note Certificates are duly authenticated by the Trustee and issued and delivered by the Company against payment therefor in accordance with the terms of the Underwriting Agreement and the Indenture, the Note Certificates will constitute valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms under the laws of the State of New York.

The opinion stated herein is subject to the following qualifications:

(a) we do not express any opinion with respect to the effect on the opinions stated herein of any bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium, fraudulent transfer, preference and other similar laws or governmental orders affecting creditors' rights generally, and the opinions stated herein are limited by such laws and by general principles of equity (regardless of whether enforcement is sought in equity or at law);

(b) we do not express any opinion with respect to any law, rule or regulation that is applicable to any party to any of the Transaction Documents or the transactions contemplated thereby solely because such law, rule or regulation is part of a regulatory regime applicable to any such party or any of its affiliates as a result of the specific assets or business operations of such party or such affiliates;

(c) except to the extent expressly stated in the opinion contained herein, we have assumed that each of the Transaction Documents constitutes the valid and binding obligation of each party to such Transaction Document, enforceable against such party in accordance with its terms;

(d) we do not express any opinion with respect to the enforceability of any provision contained in any Transaction Document relating to any indemnification, contribution, non-reliance, exculpation, release, limitation or exclusion of remedies, waiver or other provisions having similar effect that may be contrary to public policy or violative of federal or state securities laws, rules or regulations, or to the extent any such provision purports to, or has the effect of, waiving or altering any statute of limitations;

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(e) we call to your attention that irrespective of the agreement of the parties to any Transaction Document, a court may decline to hear a case on grounds of forum non conveniens or other doctrine limiting the availability of such court as a forum for resolution of disputes; in addition, we call to your attention that we do not express any opinion with respect to the subject matter jurisdiction of the federal courts of the United States of America in any action arising out of or relating to any Transaction Document; and

(f) to the extent that any opinion relates to the enforceability of the choice of New York law and choice of New York forum provisions contained in any Transaction Document, the opinion stated herein is subject to the qualification that such enforceability may be subject to, in each case, (i) the exceptions and limitations in New York General Obligations Law sections 5-1401 and 5-1402 and (ii) principles of comity and constitutionality.

In addition, in rendering the foregoing opinion we have assumed that, at all applicable times:

(a) the Company (i) was duly incorporated and was validly existing and in good standing, (ii) had requisite legal status and legal capacity under the laws of the jurisdiction of its organization and (iii) has complied and will comply with all aspects of the laws of the jurisdiction of its organization in connection with the transactions contemplated by, and the performance of its obligations under, the Transaction Documents;

(b) the Company had the corporate power and authority to execute, deliver and perform all its obligations under each of the Transaction Documents;

(c) each of the Transaction Documents had been duly authorized, executed and delivered by all requisite corporate action on the part of the Company under New Jersey law;

(d) neither the execution and delivery by the Company of the Transaction Documents nor the performance by the Company of its obligations thereunder, including the issuance and sale of the Notes: (i) conflicted or will conflict with the certificate of incorporation of the Company, (ii) constituted or will constitute a violation of, or a default under, any lease, indenture, agreement or other instrument to which the Company or its property is subject (except that we do not make the assumption set forth in this clause (ii) with respect to those agreements or instruments expressed to be governed by the laws of the State of New York which are listed in Part II of the Registration Statement or the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020), (iii) contravened or will contravene any order or decree of any governmental authority to which the Company or its property is subject or (iv) violated or will violate any law, rule or regulation to which the Company or its property is subject (except that we do not make the assumption set forth in this clause (iv) with respect to the Opined-on Law); and

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(c) neither the execution and delivery by the Company of the Transaction Documents nor the performance by the Company of its obligations thereunder, including the issuance and sale of the Notes, required or will require the consent, approval, licensing or authorization of, or any filing, recording or registration with, any governmental authority under any law, rule or regulation of any jurisdiction.

We hereby consent to the reference to our firm under the heading "Legal Matters" in the Preliminary Prospectus and the Prospectus. In giving this consent, we do not thereby admit that we are within the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the Rules and Regulations. We also hereby consent to the filing of this opinion with the Commission as an exhibit to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K being filed on the date hereof and incorporated by reference into the Registration Statement. This opinion is expressed as of the date hereof unless otherwise expressly stated, and we disclaim any undertaking to advise you of any subsequent changes in the facts stated or assumed herein or of any subsequent changes in applicable laws.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

RJD

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