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(54) **Title**: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INTRODUCING AN INTRAVENOUS CATHETER

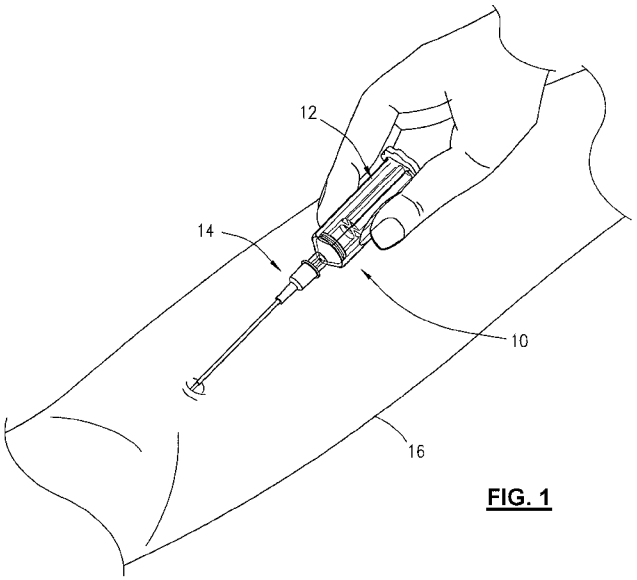


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract**: A catheter insertion apparatus with visual indication of needle penetration of a blood vessel and placement of the catheter cannula within the blood vessel, using blood vessel pressure to indicate needle penetration by the presence of blood within a transparent chamber within the apparatus and the displacement of a plunger to create a negative pressure on the cannula and thus allowing blood to be visible within the catheter hub thereby indicating the introduction of the cannula into the blood vessel.

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