WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for delivering a fluid comprising:

a housing defining an interior space and having a bottom surface configured for contacting a patient, the bottom surface defining a needle opening;

a reservoir disposed within the interior space of the housing for containing a fluid therein;

a needle carrier disposed within the housing;

an injection needle supported by the needle carrier and defining a lumen in fluid communication with the reservoir,

wherein the injection needle is transitionable from an initial position in which the injection needle is disposed within the housing, to a use position in which the injection needle extends through the needle opening, and a substantially shielded position in which the injection needle is disposed within the housing and the lumen of the needle is blocked by a portion of the housing.

2. The device of claim 1, further comprising a needle actuator having a first ramp portion having an inclined section and a level section, the level section being generally parallel to the bottom surface of the housing,

wherein the needle carrier comprises a first engagement for contacting the inclined section of the first ramp portion to transition the injection needle from the initial position to the use position.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein the needle actuator further comprises a second ramp portion having an inclined section and a level section being generally parallel to the bottom surface of the housing, wherein the needle carrier further comprises a second engagement for contacting the inclined section of the second ramp portion to transition the injection needle from the use position to the shielded position.

4. The device of claim 1, further comprising a pad disposed within the housing, wherein the lumen of the injection needle is blocked by the pad when the injection needle is in the shielded position.

5. The device of claim 1, further comprising a pad disposed within the housing and a needle actuator configured to drive the injection needle into the pad when the injection needle is transitioned from the use position to the shielded position.

6. The device of claim 5, wherein at least a portion of the pad is received by the needle actuator in the shielded position.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the reservoir is configured to automatically supply fluid to the injection needle after the injection needle is transitioned from the initial position to the use position.

8. The device of claim 1, further comprising a needle actuator configured to engage the needle carrier to transition the injection needle from the initial position, to the use position, and the shielded position.

9. The device of claim 8, wherein the reservoir comprises a syringe assembly, the syringe assembly comprising:

a syringe barrel for containing a fluid therein;

a stopper disposed within the syringe barrel; and

a plunger configured to advance the stopper within the syringe barrel to expel the fluid therefrom.

10. The device of claim 9, further comprising a plunger stop engaged with the plunger when the injection needle is in the initial position, wherein the plunger stop is configured to engage the needle carrier and release the plunger stop from the plunger when the injection needle is transitioned from the initial position to the use position.

11. The device of claim 9, further comprising a needle stop configured to restrict movement of the injection needle from the use position to the shielded position until a predetermined amount of fluid has been dispensed from the reservoir.

12. The device of claim 11, wherein the needle stop comprises a rotatable body which engages the needle actuator and the plunger when the injection needle is in the

use position, the needle stop disengaging from the plunger when the injection needle is transitioned from the use position to the shielded position.

13. The device of claim 1, further comprising an activation button, wherein deployment of the activation button allows the injection needle to transition from the initial position to the use position.

14. The device of claim 1, further comprising an indicator for indicating when the injection needle is in the initial position, the use position, and the shielded position.

15. A device for delivering a fluid comprising:

a housing defining an interior space and having a bottom surface configured for contacting a patient, the bottom surface defining a needle opening;

a reservoir disposed within the interior space of the housing for containing a fluid therein;

a needle carrier disposed within the housing;

an injection needle supported by the needle carrier and defining a lumen, the lumen of the injection needle configured to be placed in fluid communication with the reservoir, wherein the injection needle is transitionable from an initial position in which the injection needle is disposed within the housing, to a use position in which the injection needle extends through the needle opening, and a substantially shielded position in which the injection needle is disposed within the housing; and

an indicator for indicating when the injection needle is in the initial position, the use position, and the shielded position.

16. The device of claim 15, wherein the housing includes at least one indicator lens, and wherein the indicator is visible from an exterior of the housing via the indicator lens.

17. The device of claim 15, wherein the indicator provides a visual and tactile indication of the position of the injection needle.

18. The device of claim 17, wherein the indicator comprises an indicator post and the housing defines an indicator opening, the indicator post disposed within the housing when the injection needle is in the initial position and the use position, the indicator post extending through the indicator opening when the injection needle is in the shielded position.

19. A device for delivering a fluid comprising:

a housing defining an interior space and having a bottom surface configured for contacting a patient, the bottom surface defining a needle opening;

a reservoir disposed within the interior space of the housing for containing a fluid therein;

a needle carrier disposed within the housing;

an activation member; and

an injection needle supported by the needle carrier and defining a lumen, the lumen of the injection needle configured to be placed in fluid communication with the reservoir,

wherein deployment of the activation member causes the injection needle to transition from an initial position in which the injection needle is disposed within the housing, to a use position in which the injection needle extends through the needle opening, and a substantially shielded position in which the injection needle is disposed within the housing.

20. The device of claim 19, further comprising a needle actuator configured to engage the needle carrier to transition the injection needle from the initial position, to the use position, and the shielded position.

21. The device of claim 20, further comprising a needle stop configured to restrict movement of the injection needle from the use position to the shielded position until a predetermined amount of fluid has been dispensed from the reservoir.

22. The device of claim 21, wherein the activation member engages the needle actuator when the injection needle is in the initial position, the needle stop engages the needle actuator when the injection needle is in the use position, and the needle stop is disengaged from the needle actuator when the injection needle is in the shielded position.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for delivering a fluid comprising:

a housing defining an interior space and having a bottom surface configured for contacting a patient, the bottom surface defining a needle opening;

a reservoir disposed within the interior space of the housing for containing a fluid therein;

a needle carrier disposed within the housing;

a pad disposed within the housing;

an injection needle supported by the needle carrier and defining a lumen in fluid communication with the reservoir; and

a needle actuator;

wherein the injection needle is transitionable from an initial position in which the injection needle is disposed within the housing, to a use position in which the injection needle extends through the needle opening, and subsequently to a substantially shielded position in which the injection needle is disposed within the housing and the lumen of the needle is blocked by the pad; and

the needle actuator is configured to drive the injection needle into the pad when the injection needle is transitioned from the use position to the shielded position.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the needle actuator has a first ramp portion having an inclined section and a level section, the level section being generally parallel to the bottom surface of the housing; and

wherein the needle carrier comprises a first engagement for contacting the inclined section of the first ramp portion to transition the injection needle from the initial position to the use position.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein the needle actuator further comprises a second ramp portion having an inclined section and a level section being generally parallel to the bottom surface of the housing, wherein the needle carrier further comprises a second engagement for contacting the inclined section of the second ramp portion to transition the injection needle from the use position to the shielded position.

4. The device of claim 1 wherein the lumen of the injection needle is blocked by the pad when the injection needle is in the shielded position.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the pad is received by the needle actuator in the shielded position.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein the reservoir is configured to automatically supply fluid to the injection needle after the injection needle is transitioned from the initial position to the use position.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the needle actuator is configured to engage the needle carrier to transition the injection needle from the initial position, to the use position, and the shielded position.

8. The device of claim 7, wherein the reservoir comprises a syringe assembly, the syringe assembly comprising:

a syringe barrel for containing a fluid therein;

a stopper disposed within the syringe barrel; and

a plunger configured to advance the stopper within the syringe barrel to expel the fluid therefrom.

9. The device of claim 8, further comprising a plunger stop engaged with the plunger when the injection needle is in the initial position, wherein the plunger stop is configured to engage the needle carrier and release the plunger stop from the plunger when the injection needle is transitioned from the initial position to the use position.

10. The device of claim 8, further comprising a needle stop configured to restrict movement of the injection needle from the use position to the shielded position until a predetermined amount of fluid has been dispensed from the reservoir.

11. The device of claim 10, wherein the needle stop comprises a rotatable body which engages the needle actuator and the plunger when the injection needle is in the use position, the needle stop disengaging from the plunger when the injection needle is transitioned from the use position to the shielded position.

12. The device of claim 1, further comprising an activation button, wherein deployment of the activation button allows the injection needle to transition from the initial position to the use position.

13. The device of claim 1, further comprising an indicator for indicating when the injection needle is in the initial position, the use position, and the shielded position.

14. A device for delivering a fluid comprising:

a housing defining an interior space and having a bottom surface configured for contacting a patient, the bottom surface defining a needle opening;

a reservoir disposed within the interior space of the housing for containing a fluid therein;

a needle carrier disposed within the housing;

a pad disposed within the housing;

a needle actuator;

an injection needle supported by the needle carrier and defining a lumen, the lumen of the injection needle being configured to be placed in fluid communication with the reservoir, wherein the injection needle is transitionable from an initial position in which the injection needle is disposed within the housing, to a use position in which the injection needle extends through the needle opening, and subsequently to a substantially shielded position in which the injection needle is disposed within the housing; and

an indicator for indicating when the injection needle is in the initial position, the use position, and the shielded position;

wherein the needle actuator is configured to drive the injection needle into the pad when the injection needle is transitioned from the use position to the shielded position.

15. The device of claim 14, wherein the housing includes at least one indicator lens, and wherein the indicator is visible from an exterior of the housing via the indicator lens.

16. The device of claim 14, wherein the indicator provides a visual and tactile indication of the position of the injection needle.

17. The device of claim 16, wherein the indicator comprises an indicator post and the housing defines an indicator opening, the indicator post disposed within the housing when the injection needle is in the initial position and the use position, the indicator post extending through the indicator opening when the injection needle is in the shielded position.

18. A device for delivering a fluid comprising:

a housing defining an interior space and having a bottom surface configured for contacting a patient, the bottom surface defining a needle opening;

a reservoir disposed within the interior space of the housing for containing a fluid therein;

a needle carrier disposed within the housing;

a pad disposed within the housing;

a needle actuator;

an activation member; and

an injection needle supported by the needle carrier and defining a lumen, the lumen of the injection needle configured to be placed in fluid communication with the reservoir,

wherein deployment of the activation member causes the injection needle to transition from an initial position in which the injection needle is disposed within the housing, to a use position in which the injection needle extends through the needle opening, and subsequently to a substantially shielded position in which the injection needle is disposed within the housing;

wherein the needle actuator is configured to drive the injection needle into the pad when the injection needle is transitioned from the use position to the shielded position.

19. The device of claim 18, wherein the needle actuator is configured to engage the needle carrier to transition the injection needle from the initial position, to the use position, and the shielded position.

20. The device of claim 19, further comprising a needle stop configured to restrict movement of the injection needle from the use position to the shielded position until a predetermined amount of fluid has been dispensed from the reservoir.

21. The device of claim 20, wherein the activation member engages the needle actuator when the injection needle is in the initial position, the needle stop engages the needle actuator when the injection needle is in the use position, and the needle stop is disengaged from the needle actuator when the injection needle is in the shielded position.