WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A needle assembly comprising:

a needle guard having a non-metallic base portion comprising a wall having bore, a proximally facing surface, and a distally facing surface; and

a first arm including a first free end and a second arm including a second free end extending generally axially from the base portion in a distal direction, the first free end extending beyond the second free end and including an angled end section that extends toward the second arm,

a needle having a tip and a diameter,

wherein the angled distal end section comprises a length and a width configured to retain ~~a~~ the needle ~~having a needle diameter~~ within an open area or open space or tip holding space; and

wherein the length and width of the angled distal end section are larger than the needle diameter and the width is at least two times larger than the needle diameter, and

wherein the needle guard further comprises a metal insert disposed within a bore of the needle guard to allow contact between the metal insert and a change in profile positioned adjacent to a needle tip when the needle is in a protected position.

~~2. The needle assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a metal insert disposed within a bore of the needle guard to allow contact between the metal insert and a change in profile positioned adjacent to a needle tip when the needle is in a protected position.~~

~~3~~2. The needle assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a shield member made from a material different from the non-metallic material of the base portion positioned in or on the angled end section.

~~4~~3. The needle assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a catheter hub comprising a guard engaging section adapted to engage a hub engaging section on the needle guard.

~~5~~4. The needle assembly of Claim ~~4~~3, further comprising a tensioning member located about the needle guard to bias the first arm and the second arm toward one another.

~~6~~5. The needle assembly of Claim ~~4~~3, further comprising a port located on the catheter hub, which is spaced from an open proximal end of the catheter hub.

~~7~~6. The needle assembly of Claim ~~6~~5, further comprising a sleeve for controlling fluid flow through the port.

~~8~~7. The needle assembly of Claim 1, wherein the needle guard comprises a flap on the first arm, the second arm, or both the first arm and the second arm.

~~9~~8. A needle assembly comprising:

a needle guard having non-metallic base portion comprising a wall having a bore, a bore length, a bore diameter, a proximally facing surface, and a distally facing surface; and

a first arm including a first free end and a second arm including a second free end extending generally axially in a distal direction from the base portion, the first free end extending beyond the second free end and including an angled end section comprising a first side edge, a second side edge, a length, and a width that extends toward the second arm;

an open area or open space or needle tip holding space defined at least in part by the base portion, the first arm, the second arm, and the angled end section;

a needle having a tip and a diameter,

wherein the first arm and the second arm are biased so as to move between a ready position in which the angled end section abuts the needle and a protected position in which the needle tip is confined within an open area or open space or tip holding space; and

wherein the length and width of the angled distal end section are larger than the needle diameter and ~~cooperate with the bore length and bore diameter~~dimensioned so as to confine the needle tip within the open area or open space or needle tip holding space as the needle guard pivots and/or turns on the needle shaft, and

wherein the needle guard further comprises a metallic plate comprising an opening attached to the non-metallic base portion.

~~10~~9. The needle assembly of Claim ~~9~~8, wherein the needle tip is prevented from ~~pivoting~~ moving beyond the first side edge or the second side edge by the cooperation between the length and width of the angled distal end section, the bore length and the bore diameter.

~~11. The needle assembly of Claim 9, further comprising a cylindrical insert made from a different material than the non-metallic material of the base portion.~~

~~12. The needle assembly of Claim 9, wherein the cylindrical insert is made from a harder material than the non-metallic material of the base portion to minimize needle pivoting.~~

~~13. The needle assembly of Claim 9, wherein cylindrical insert is a metallic plate comprising an opening attached to the non-metallic base portion.~~

~~14~~10. The needle assembly of Claim~~s 11~~ 8 ~~to 13~~, wherein the needle comprises a change in profile and wherein the change in profile abuts the ~~insert~~metallic plate.

~~15~~11. The needle assembly of Claim ~~9~~8, the needle guard further comprising a tensioning member for biasing the first arm and the second toward one another.

~~16~~12. The needle assembly of Claims ~~9~~8, further comprising a shield member made from a different material than the non-metallic material of the base portion located at the angled distal end section.

~~17~~13. A method for assembling a needle assembly comprising:

providing a needle having a needle shaft, a needle tip, and a change in profile near the needle tip on a needle hub;

placing a needle guard slidably about the needle shaft; said needle guard comprising:

a non-metallic base portion comprising wall having a bore, a bore length, a bore diameter, a proximally facing surface, and a distally facing surface;

a metal insert disposed within a bore of the needle guard to allow contact between the metal insert and a change in profile positioned near the needle tip when the needle is in a protected position and

a first arm including a first free end and a second arm including a second free end extending generally axially in a distal direction from the base portion, the first free end extending beyond the second free end and including an angled end section comprising a first side edge, a second side edge, a length, and a width that extends toward the second arm;

an open area or open space or needle tip holding space defined at least in part by the base portion, the first arm, the second arm, and the angled end section;

wherein the length and width of the angled distal end section are larger than a needle diameter and ~~cooperate with the bore length and bore diameter~~dimensioned so as to confine the needle tip within the open area or open space or needle tip holding space as the needle guard pivots and/or turns on the needle;

moving the needle guard to a proximal position on the needle shaft so that the angled end section is based by the needle shaft and is spaced from the needle tip.

~~18~~14. The method of Claim ~~17~~13, further comprising placing the needle guard inside a catheter hub so that a guard engaging section on the catheter hub engages the hub engaging section on the needle guard.

~~19~~15. The method of Claim ~~18~~14, wherein the engagement occurs only after moving the needle guard relative to the catheter hub.

~~20. The method of Claim 17, further comprising an insert located in the bore of the needle guard.~~

~~21~~16. The method of Claim ~~20~~13, further comprising moving the change in profile against the insert.

~~22~~17. The method of Claim ~~21~~16, wherein a separation force to pull the change in profile away from the needle guard is at least 3 times that of a similar needle guard without the insert.

~~23. A needle assembly comprising a needle, a needle guard mounted over the needle, and a needle hub attached to the needle; wherein the needle guard is made partially or completely from a non-metallic material~~