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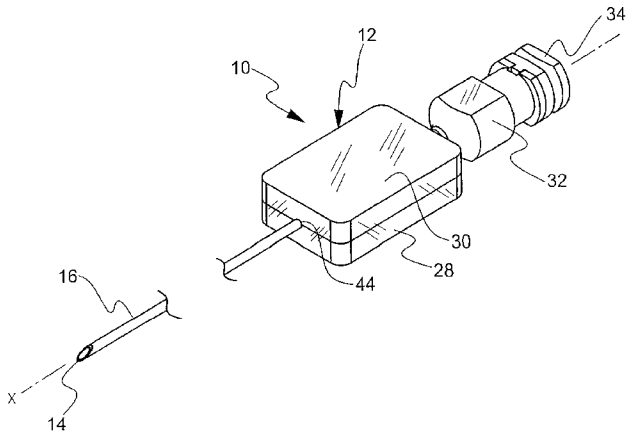
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(54) Title: SAFETY SHIELD FOR MEDICAL NEEDLES



(57) Abstract: A medical needle shield apparatus (10) is provided that includes a shield (10, 12) that is extensible from a retracted position to an extended position to enclose a distal end of a needle (14). A binding member (64) is disposed within the shield (10) and defines binding surfaces (68) that form an aperture (66) configured for slidable receipt of the needle (14) between the retracted position and the extended position. The binding member (64) includes at least one drag inducing member (62) extending therefrom that is configured for slidable engagement with the needle (14) between the retracted position and the extended position such that the at least one drag inducing member (62) engages the needle (14) to create a drag force with the needle (14). The drag force and shield (10) cause rotation of the binding member (64) such that the binding surfaces (68) engage the needle (14) to prevent slidable movement of the needle (14) in the extended position of the shield.

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