What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

a housing defining a housing passageway;

a head defining a head passageway, the head configured to rotate relative to the housing such that the housing passageway and the head passageway collectively define at least a portion of an insertion passageway, the portion of the insertion passageway being nonlinear; and

an insertion member having a distal end portion configured to be removably coupled to an implant, at least a proximal end portion of the insertion member disposed within the housing passageway, the insertion member configured to move within the portion of insertion passageway to convey the implant to a target location, at least a portion of the insertion member configured to bend when the insertion member is moved within the portion of the insertion passageway.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the target location is a uterus; and

the head includes a contact portion configured to contact an external surface of the uterus.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the head includes a contact portion configured to contact a surface of the target location, the head defining a volume; and

the head defines a vacuum channel in fluid communication with the volume, the vacuum channel configured to be operably coupled to a vacuum source.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the head is configured to rotate relative to the housing with at least two degrees of freedom.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the head passageway is defined by a side wall, at least a portion of the side wall being configured to contact the distal end portion of the insertion member to facilitate bending of the insertion member when the insertion member is moved relative to the housing.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the housing includes an engagement portion configured to engage the proximal end portion of the insertion member to limit movement of the insertion member relative to the housing.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the insertion member is a first insertion member defining a lumen within which the implant can be removably disposed, the apparatus further comprising:

a second insertion member at least partially disposed within the lumen, the plunger configured to move relative to the first insertion member to expel the implant from the lumen.

8. An apparatus, comprising:

a housing defining a housing passageway;

a head defining a head passageway, the head configured to rotate relative to the housing such that a center line of the housing passageway is nonparallel to a center line of the head passageway, a contact portion of the head configured to contact a surface of a body; and

an insertion member having a distal end portion configured to be removably coupled to an implant, at least a proximal end portion of the insertion member disposed within the housing passageway, the insertion member configured to move relative to the housing such that the proximal end portion moves within the housing passageway and the distal end portion moves within the head passageway to convey the implant to a target location within the body.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein:

the contact portion of the head defines a volume; and

the head defines a vacuum channel in fluid communication with the volume, the vacuum channel configured to be operably coupled to a vacuum source.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the head passageway is defined by a side wall of the head, at least a portion of the side wall being configured to engage the distal end portion of the insertion member to facilitate bending of the insertion member when the insertion member is moved relative to the housing.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the contact portion of the head includes a protrusion configured to position the head relative to a lumen defined by the target location, the protrusion defining a channel in fluid communication with the insertion passageway.

12. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the contact portion of the head includes a dilator configured to dilate a lumen defined by the target location, the distal end portion of the insertion member configured to move through the dilator to convey the implant to the target location via the lumen.

13. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a sleeve configured to be disposed about at least the contact portion of the head.

14. An apparatus, comprising:

a housing defining a housing passageway, the housing having a contact surface configured to contact a surface associated with a target location;

a first insertion member having a distal end portion configured to be removably coupled to an implant, at least a portion of the insertion member disposed within the housing passageway, the first insertion member configured to move relative to the housing between a first position and a second position, the distal end portion of the first insertion member being spaced apart from the contact surface by a predetermined distance when the first insertion member is in the second position;

a second insertion member coupled to the first insertion member, the second insertion member configured to move relative to the first insertion member to decouple the implant from the distal end portion of the first insertion member; and

a control mechanism configured to limit an implant force exerted by the second insertion member on the implant when the second insertion member is moved relative to the first insertion member.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:

the target location is a uterus; and

the surface is an external surface of the uterus.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:

the contact surface defines a volume; and

the housing defines a vacuum channel in fluid communication with the volume, the vacuum channel configured to be operably coupled to a vacuum source.

17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the housing includes an engagement portion configured to engage the first insertion member when the first insertion member is in the second position to limit movement of the first insertion member relative to the housing.

18. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:

the housing defines a volume configured to contain a fluid having a pressure;

the second insertion member includes a plunger portion disposed within the volume, the fluid configured to exert the pressure on the plunger portion to produce the implant force to move the second insertion member relative to the first exertion member; and

the control mechanism includes a valve configured to maintain the pressure below a predetermined threshold.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the valve is configured to be adjustable such that the predetermined threshold can be changed.

20. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:

the housing defines a volume configured to contain a pressurized fluid;

the first insertion member includes a plunger portion disposed within the volume, the pressurized fluid configured to exert a first force on the plunger portion of the first insertion member to move the first insertion member relative to the housing; and

the second insertion member includes a plunger portion disposed within the volume, the pressurized fluid configured to exert a second force on the plunger portion of the second insertion member to move the second insertion member relative to the housing.

21. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the control mechanism includes at least one of a valve, a ratchet mechanism or a clutch.

22. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:

an energy storage member coupled to the housing, the energy storage member configured to produce a force when actuated to move at least one of the first insertion member or the second insertion member

23. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:

the housing passageway is nonlinear; and

at least one of the first insertion member or the second insertion member is configured to move within the housing passageway, the at least one of the first insertion member or the second insertion member is configured to bend when the insertion member is moved within the housing passageway.

24. An apparatus, comprising:

a housing defining a housing passageway, the housing having a contact surface configured to contact a surface associated with a target location;

an insertion member having a distal end portion configured to be removably coupled to an implant, at least a proximal end portion of the insertion member disposed within the housing passageway, the insertion member configured to move within the housing passageway to convey the implant to the target location; and

an energy storage member coupled to the housing, the energy storage member configured to produce a force when actuated to move the insertion member within the housing passageway.

25. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:

a control mechanism configured to limit an implant force exerted by the insertion member on the implant when the insertion member is moved.

26. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the energy storage member includes any one of a biasing member, an electrical energy storage member, a magnetic member, a source of pressurized fluid or a source of a propellant.

27. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein:

the energy storage member includes a source of pressurized fluid;

the housing defines a volume configured to contain a pressurized fluid from the source of pressurized fluid; and

the insertion member includes a plunger portion disposed within the volume, the pressurized fluid configured to exert the force on the plunger portion of the insertion member to move the insertion member.

28. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the insertion member is configured to move between a first position and a second position, the distal end portion of the insertion member being spaced apart from the contact surface by a predetermined distance when the insertion member is in the second position.

29. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein:
the target location is a uterus; and
the surface is an external surface of the uterus.

30. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein:
the contact surface defines a volume; and
the housing defines a vacuum channel in fluid communication with the volume, the vacuum channel configured to be operably coupled to a vacuum source.

31. An apparatus, comprising:
a housing defining a housing passageway, the housing having a contact portion configured to contact a surface associated with a target location, the contact portion configured to substantially circumscribe a bodily cavity associated with the target location, a side wall of the contact portion defining a volume that partially circumscribes the bodily cavity such that when the contact portion contacts the surface the side wall and a portion of the surface substantially enclose the volume,
the housing defines a vacuum channel in fluid communication with the volume, the vacuum channel configured to be operably coupled to a vacuum source such that when the vacuum source is actuated a vacuum force is exerted on the portion of the surface; and
an insertion member having a distal end portion configured to be removably coupled to an implant, at least a proximal end portion of the insertion member disposed within the housing passageway, the insertion member configured to move within the housing passageway to convey the implant to the target location via the bodily cavity.

32. The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:
a plunger disposed at least partially within a vacuum volume defined by the housing, the volume fluidically coupled to the vacuum channel, the plunger configured to be moved within the vacuum volume to produce a vacuum in the volume.

33. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein:

the plunger is configured to be moved from a first position and a second position to produce the vacuum in the vacuum volume; and

the housing includes a retention member configured to engage a portion of the plunger when the plunger to maintain the plunger in the second position.

34. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the contact portion includes a head defining a head passageway, the head configured to rotate relative to the housing such that the housing passageway and the head passageway collectively define at least a portion of an insertion passageway, the portion of the insertion passageway being nonlinear,

the insertion member configured to move within the insertion passageway to convey the implant to the target location via the bodily cavity.

35. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the volume is a volume from a plurality of volumes defined by the side wall of the contact portion, each volume from the plurality of volume in communication with the vacuum channel.

36. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the contact portion has a collapsed configuration and an expanded configuration, a size of the contact portion when the contact portion is in the expanded configuration is greater than a size of the contact portion when the contact portion is in the collapsed configuration.

37. A method, comprising:

inserting a contact portion of an implant delivery device into a body in a distal direction until the contact portion contacts an outer surface of a cervix of a uterus;

producing a vacuum within a volume defined by the contact portion such that a suction force is applied to at least a portion of the outer surface of the cervix;

moving the implant delivery device in a proximal direction until an angle between a cervical canal of the cervix and a uterine cavity of the uterus is greater than approximately 90 degrees; and

moving an insertion member within a passageway defined by the implant delivery device until a distal end portion of the insertion member is disposed within the uterine cavity.

38. A method, comprising:

inserting a housing of an implant delivery device into a body until a contact portion of the housing contacts an outer surface of a cervix of a uterus, the implant delivery device including a first insertion member and a second insertion member, a distal end portion of the first insertion member removably coupled to an implant;

moving the first insertion member relative to the housing such that the distal end portion of the first insertion member is disposed within a cervical canal of the cervix; and

moving the second insertion member relative to the first insertion member to decouple the implant from the first insertion member.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the moving the first insertion member includes moving the first insertion member a predetermined distance.

40. The method of claim 38, wherein the moving the second insertion member exerting a force on the implant, the force being below a predetermined threshold.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

a housing defining a housing passageway;

a head defining a head passageway, the housing passageway and the head passageway collectively defining at least a portion of an insertion passageway; and

an insertion assembly having a first insertion member, a second insertion member, and a control mechanism, the first insertion member configured to be removably coupled to an implant, at least a portion of the first insertion member disposed within the housing passageway, the first insertion member configured to move within the portion of insertion passageway to convey the implant to a target location, the second insertion member configured to transmit at least a portion of an input force to the first insertion member to move the first insertion member within the housing, the control mechanism configured to limit a magnitude of the input force transmitted to the first insertion member.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the target location is a uterus; and

the head includes a contact portion configured to contact an external surface of the uterus.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the head includes a contact portion configured to contact a surface of the target location, the head defining a volume; and

the head defines a vacuum channel in fluid communication with the volume, the vacuum channel configured to be operably coupled to a vacuum source.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the head is configured to rotate relative to the housing with at least two degrees of freedom.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the head passageway is defined by a side wall, at least a portion of the side wall being configured to contact the distal end portion of the first insertion member to facilitate bending of the first insertion member when the first insertion member is moved relative to the housing.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the housing includes an engagement portion configured to engage the proximal end portion of the first insertion member to limit movement of the first insertion member relative to the housing.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first insertion member defines a lumen within which the implant can be removably disposed.

The second insertion member at least partially disposed within the lumen, the second insertion member configured to move relative to the first insertion member to expel the implant from the lumen.

8. An apparatus, comprising:

a housing defining a housing passageway, the housing defining a vacuum channel and a vacuum chamber, the vacuum channel in fluid communication with the vacuum chamber;

an actuator at least partially disposed within the vacuum chamber such that movement of the actuator within the vacuum chamber produces a vacuum;

a head coupled to the housing and defining a head passageway in fluid communication with the vacuum channel of the housing, a contact portion of the head configured to contact a surface associated with a target location, the contact portion configured to substantially circumscribe a bodily cavity associated with the target location, a side wall of the contact portion defining a volume that at least partially circumscribes the bodily cavity such that when the contact portion contacts the surface, the side wall and a portion of the surface substantially enclose the volume,;

the volume in fluid communication with the head passageway such that when the actuator is moved a vacuum force is exerted on the portion of the surface; and

an insertion member having a distal end portion configured to be removably coupled to an implant, at least a proximal end portion of the insertion member disposed within the housing passageway, the insertion member configured to move relative to the housing such that the proximal end portion moves within the housing passageway and the distal end portion moves within the head passageway to convey the implant to a target location within the body.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the contact portion of the head includes a protrusion configured to position the head relative to a lumen defined by the target location.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the contact portion of the head includes a dilator configured to dilate a lumen defined by the target location, the distal end portion of the insertion member configured to move through the dilator to convey the implant to the target location via the lumen.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:
a sleeve configured to be disposed about at least the contact portion of the head.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the input force is produced manually by a user.

13. The apparatus of claim apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:
a lever configured to be manipulated by the user to produce the input force

14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the magnitude of the input force transmitted to the first insertion member is non-zero.

15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control mechanism includes any one of a clutch mechanism or a ratchet mechanism.

16. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the actuator includes a plunger disposed at least partially within the vacuum chamber and configured to form a substantially airtight seal with an inner surface of the vacuum chamber.

17. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the actuator is at least partially disposed outside the vacuum chamber, the portion of the actuator disposed outside the vacuum chamber configured to receive from a user a manual force, the actuator configured to move within the vacuum chamber in response to the manual force received from the user.