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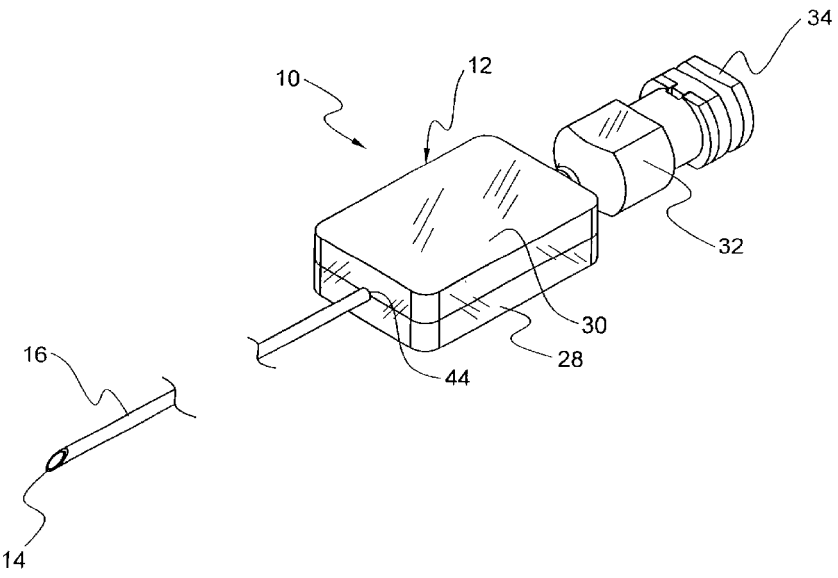
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(54) Title: SAFETY SHIELD FOR MEDICAL NEEDLES



(57) Abstract: A medical needle shield apparatus (10) is provided which is slidably movable along a medical needle (16) from a proximal position where a distal end of the needle is exposed, to a distal position where the shield (10) protects the distal end of the needle (16). The medical needle shield apparatus (10) includes a binding member (18) having an aperture through which the needle (16) passes. The binding member (18) also has binding surfaces (22) for binding to a medical needle (16). The shield apparatus also includes a retainer (24) integral with the binding member (18)and in communication with the needle (16) for temporarily retaining the binding surfaces (22) in a non-binding position relative to the needle (16). The shield apparatus (10) also includes a positioning member (26) for positioning the binding surfaces (2) to secure the shield (10) to the needle (16) when a portion of the retainer(36) in contact with the needle (16) is advanced past the distal end of the needle (16).

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