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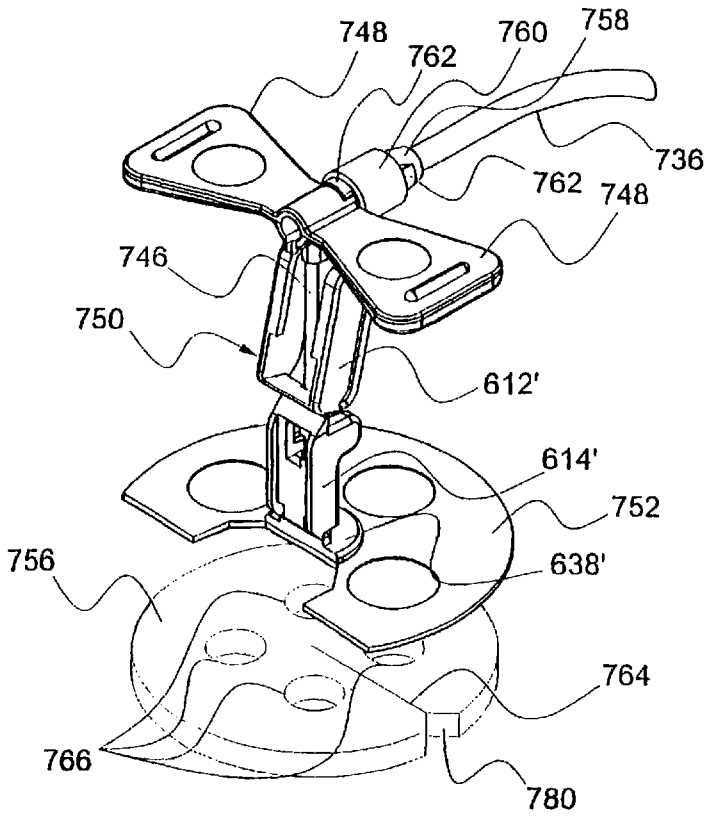
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(54) Title: SAFETY SHIELD FOR MEDICAL NEEDLES



(57) Abstract: A safety shield apparatus (10, 10', 10", 310, 744, 810) is disclosed which includes a needle (20, 746, 820) having a distal protion (60, 747, 860) defining a longitudinal axis which is angularly displaced relative to a longitudinal axis defined bz a proximal portion (80, 746B, 880) of the needle (20, 746, 820). A shield (40, 40', 340, 750, 840) is mounted wiht the needle (20, 746, 820) and extensible, via a tubular needle guide (150, 440, 638', 850) movable along the needle (20, 746, 820) and extensible, via tubular needle guide (150, 440, 638', 850) movable along the needle (20, 746, 820), between a retracted position and an extended position. The apparatus (10, 10', 10", 310, 744, 810) may include a needle hub (30, 320, 758, 830) configured to support the proximal protion (80, 746B, 880) of the needle (20, 746, 820). The needle hub (30, 320, 758, 830) can include an appendage which may have at least one opening (748A) to facilitate manipulation thereof. A distal end of the shield (40, 40', 340, 750, 840) can be attached to a planar contact surface (130, 130", 450, 752, 848). The shield (40, 40', 340, 750, 840) may also include a latch (180, 200, 434, 437, 754, 846, 946) engageable with the needle (20, 746, 820).

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