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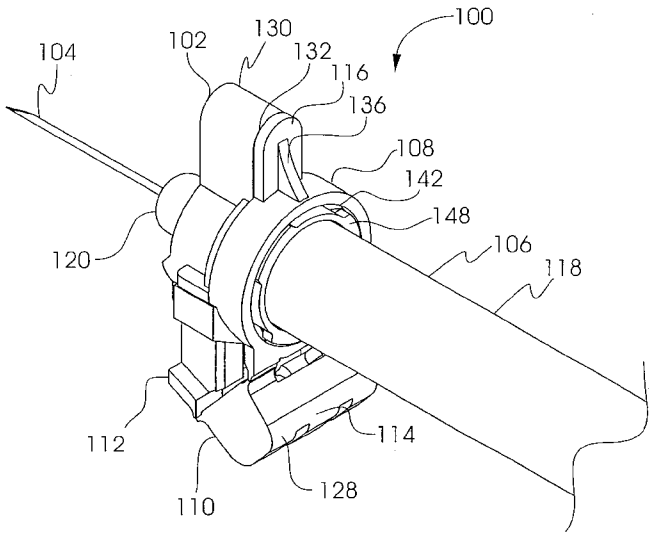
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(54) Title: SAFETY SHIELD FOR MEDICAL NEEDLES



(57) Abstract: A medical needle shield apparatus is provided that includes a first cylinder, such as, for example, a shield that is extensible from a retracted position to an extended position for enclosing a distal end of a needle of a medical needle device. The shield includes a collar that is mounted to the medical needle device. The shield further includes a proximal portion extending from the collar and a distal portion extending from the proximal portion. The distal portion is configured to enclose the distal end of the needle in the extended position. The proximal portion includes an engagement surface that is engageable to urge the shield from the retracted position to the extended position. The collar includes a guard extending therefrom and is disposed adjacent to the distal portion of the shield in the retracted position such that inadvertent extension of the shield, via engagement of the distal portion, is prevented.

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