Claims

1. A dry powder inhaler and a monitor, the dry powder inhaler having a mouthpiece and a housing which contains a blister pack, comprising a plurality of blisters, wherein a blister, or group of blisters, provides a dose of powdered medicament for inhalation, wherein the blister pack has non-numerical indicia which encode an individual, unique number that is associated with each dose, wherein the inhaler is adapted for removably mounting the monitor, wherein the monitorcomprises one or more sensors which are configured to read the non-numerical indicia, and a controller and memory which are configured to process and/or store information read by the sensors so that the monitor can determine the unique number of each dose.

2. A dry powder inhaler and a monitor according to claim 1 wherein a dose of medicament is provided by single blisters and wherein a non-numerical indicium is associated with each blister.

3. A dry powder inhaler and a monitor according to claim 1 wherein a dose of medicament is provided by pairs of blisters and wherein a non-numerical indicium is associated with each pair.

4. A dry powder inhaler and a monitor according to any of claims 1 to 3 wherein the indicia comprise three rows of printed blocks.

5. A dry powder inhaler and a monitor according to claim 4 wherein the indicia comprise a 2D matrix code.

6. A dry powder inhaler and a monitor according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the blister pack is a blister strip.

7. A dry powder inhaler and a monitor according to claim 6 wherein the inhaler further comprises a mouthpiece cover, wherein:

- in a first stage, moving the mouthpiece cover from the closed position to an intermediate position causes the blister strip to be advanced;
- in a second stage, moving the mouthpiece cover from the intermediate position to the open position causes a piercer to pierce one or more blisters.

8. A dry powder inhaler and a monitor according to claim 7 wherein the inside of the mouthpiece cover has one or more cams for actuating one or more switches on the monitor as the cover is moved for determining the position and / or direction of motion of the cover.

9. A monitor which is removably attachable to an inhaler according to any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the monitor comprises one or more sensors which are configured to read non-numerical indicia which encode an individual, unique number that is associated with each dose in a blister pack in the inhaler, and a controller and memory which are configured to process and/or store information read by the sensors so that the monitor can determine the unique number of each dose.

10. A monitor according to claim 9 which is configured to read the indicia as the blister pack is indexed.

11. A monitor according to claim 10 which has three optical sensors for reading indicia when the monitor is mounted on an inhaler according to any of claims 4 to 8.

12. A monitor according to any of claims 9 to 11 which is attachable to an inhaler according to claim 8, wherein the monitor has one or more switches on its outer side which are configured to be actuated by the cam(s) on the inside of the mouthpiece cover of the inhaler.

13. A monitor according to any of claims 9 to 12 which has a pressure sensor for detecting inhalation on the mouthpiece when the monitor is mounted on an inhaler according to any of claims 1 to 8.

14. A dry powder inhaler and a monitor according to any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the monitor is removably attached to the inhaler.