

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A patient interface, comprising:
 - a seal portion sized and shaped to surround the nose and/or mouth of a user and adapted to create at least a substantial seal with the user's face;
 - a frame portion adapted to couple to the seal portion;
 - a connector that permits the interface to be coupled to a conduit; and
 - a coupling that permits the seal portion to move relative to the frame portion.
2. The patient interface of Claim 1, wherein the relative movement of the seal portion is generally constrained to a slip plane across the frame portion of the interface.
3. The patient interface of Claim 2, wherein the relative movement is permitted generally perpendicular to the slip plane.
4. The patient interface of Claim 1, wherein the relative movement of the seal portion is constrained to a spherical boundary.
5. The patient interface of Claim 4, wherein the coupling is a ball and socket type joint.
6. The patient interface of Claim 5, wherein relative movement is permitted along a principal axis of the ball and socket joint.
7. The patient interface of Claim 5 or Claim 6, wherein the seal portion comprises a socket and the frame portion comprises a complementary ball.
8. The patient interface of Claim 1, wherein the relative movement of the seal portion is constrained to a cylindrical boundary.
9. The patient interface of Claim 8, wherein the coupling is a shaft and bearing type joint.
10. The patient interface of Claim 8 or Claim 9, wherein relative movement is permitted along an axis of the cylindrical boundary.
11. The patient interface comprising any combination of the relative movements described in claims 2 through 10.
12. A patient interface, comprising:
 - a seal portion sized and shaped to surround the nose and/or mouth of a user and adapted to create at least a substantial seal with the user's face, the seal portion comprising a seal inlet;

a frame portion comprising a frame inlet and a frame outlet, the frame portion adapted to couple to the seal portion;

a connector comprising a first end adapted to couple with the frame inlet and a second end that permits the interface to be coupled to a conduit; and

a coupling adapted to couple the frame outlet and the seal inlet, and permit the seal portion to move relative to the frame portion;

wherein the coupling is generally the same size and generally aligned with the frame inlet.

13. The patient interface of Claim 12, wherein the relative movement of the seal portion is generally constrained to a slip plane across the frame portion of the interface.

14. The patient interface of Claim 13, wherein relative movement is permitted generally perpendicular to the slip plane.

15. The patient interface of any one of Claims 12-14, wherein the coupling is made of a flexible material.

16. The patient interface of any one of Claims 12-15, wherein the coupling has a bellows construction.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A patient interface, comprising:
 - a seal portion sized and shaped to surround the nose and/or mouth of a user and adapted to create at least a substantial seal with the user's face, the seal portion comprising a seal inlet;
 - a frame portion comprising a frame inlet and a frame outlet;
 - a connector that permits the interface to be coupled to a conduit that is in fluid communication with a gas delivery device, the connector configured to be coupled with the frame inlet; and
 - a coupling between the seal inlet and the frame outlet to permit the seal portion to move relative to the frame portion, wherein the coupling comprises a ball and socket joint and/or a shaft and bearing joint.
2. The patient interface of Claim 1, wherein the relative movement of the seal portion is constrained to a spherical boundary.
3. The patient interface of Claim 1, wherein relative movement is permitted along a principal axis of the ball and socket joint.
4. The patient interface of Claim 1, wherein the seal inlet comprises a socket and the frame outlet comprises a complementary ball of the ball and socket joint, or the frame outlet comprises the socket and the seal inlet comprises the complementary ball.
5. The patient interface of Claim 1, wherein the relative movement of the seal portion is constrained to a cylindrical boundary.
6. The patient interface of Claim 1 or Claim 5, wherein relative movement is permitted along an axis of the cylindrical boundary.
7. A patient interface as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coupling is generally the same size and generally aligned with the frame inlet.
8. A patient interface as claimed in claim 1, wherein the frame outlet is a male connector portion and the seal inlet is a female connector portion, the frame outlet received in the seal inlet, or the frame outlet is a female connector portion and the seal inlet is a male connector portion, the seal inlet received in the frame outlet.

9. A patient interface as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connector is an elbow, and a first end of the elbow is a ball and the frame inlet is a female connector portion adapted to receive the ball.

10. A patient interface, comprising:

a seal portion sized and shaped to surround the nose and/or mouth of a user and adapted to create at least a substantial seal with the user's face, the seal portion comprising a seal inlet;

a frame portion comprising a frame inlet and a frame outlet;

a connector that permits the interface to be coupled to a conduit that is in fluid communication with a gas delivery device, the connector configured to be coupled with the frame inlet; and

wherein the frame outlet is a male connector portion and the seal inlet is a female connector portion, the frame outlet received in the seal inlet, or wherein the frame outlet is a female connector portion and the seal inlet is a male connector portion, the seal inlet received in the frame outlet, to form a coupling that permits the seal portion to move relative to the frame portion.

11. A patient interface as claimed in claim 10, wherein the seal inlet comprises a socket and the frame outlet comprises a complementary ball to form a ball and socket joint, or the frame outlet comprises the socket and the seal inlet comprises the complementary ball to form the ball or socket joint.

12. A patient interface as claimed in claim 11, wherein relative movement is permitted along a principal axis of the ball and socket joint.

13. The patient interface of Claim 10, wherein the relative movement of the seal portion is constrained to a spherical boundary.

14. A patient interface as claimed in claim 10, wherein the frame outlet and the seal inlet form a shaft and bearing joint.

15. A patient interface as claimed in claim 10, wherein the connector is an elbow, and a first end of the elbow is a ball and the frame inlet is a female connector portion adapted to receive the ball.