

URINE COLLECTION DEVICE

This invention relates to a device to assist in the collection of urine from a patient.

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The analysis of a patient's urine is often used as a diagnostic method for detecting a wide range of conditions and illnesses. The urine can be analysed for particular chemicals that are indicative of particular infections, for example. Analysis of a mid stream urine sample is preferred for accurate results, as it is thought to be more representative of the state of the urine. As its name implies, a mid stream sample should not contain urine from the initial flow.

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The patient is typically required to provide a urine sample into a sample bottle. In general, sample bottles are relatively small and have a narrow neck, making it difficult for the patient to accurately deliver a sample into the bottle. Due to these difficulties, providing a urine sample can be a messy and unpleasant process especially if a mid stream sample is required. The difficulties are particularly acute when the patient is female, due to the problem of locating the sample bottle correctly.

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Prior art devices have been made to assist patients in delivering a sample. EP 1 401 334 discloses a device having a collection funnel that automatically expands from its flat-packed storage configuration into a usable configuration, thereby making locating the device appropriately easier. The device has an outlet to which a sample bottle can be placed for easier collection. However, this device does not address the issue of ensuring the effective filling of a sample bottle, while ensuring the collection funnel does not overflow. It does not make provision for taking a mid stream sample, either.

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Further, GB 2 385 532 discloses a urine sample collection device that is adapted to collect a mid stream urine sample. The device has means to divert the initial flow of urine away from an aperture to which a sample bottle is connected. As the urine flow increases, urine enters the aperture. As this device depends on the urine flow rate it may be unreliable at collecting a mid stream sample.

According to the invention, we provide a urine collection device comprising:

- 10 a collection means to collect urine voided by a user;
first and second outlet means adapted to allow urine collected by the collection means to drain from the device;
a transfer passage adapted to transfer urine collected by the collection means to a receptacle;
- 15 the first outlet means including a flow rate variation device so constructed and arranged that an initial drain flow rate through the variation device is greater than a second drain flow rate through the variation device; and
the second outlet means comprising an overflow outlet means
20 adapted to allow urine collected by the collection means to drain from the urine collection device at a third drain flow rate equal to or higher than the initial drain flow rate through the variation device.

The provision of the two outlet means and the flow rate variation device ensures that the midstream sample can be collected easily, since the initial flow drains relatively quickly through the first outlet means, the subsequent flow drains more slowly through the first outlet means to allow the midstream to be transferred to the receptacle, and then the overflow outlet means is operative, if necessary, once the receptacle is full. This allows the further flow to drain more quickly to prevent the collection means from overflowing.

Preferably the flow rate variation device comprises an expandable plug accommodated in the base of the collection means. The plug initially allows a greater initial drain flow rate, but expands on contact with liquid
5 to provide the second reduced drain flow rate.

The plug is conveniently formed of a sponge material. The sponge material may be biodegradable.

10 The transfer passage is preferably formed in a transfer device connected to the collection means. The transfer device is also adapted for connection to the receptacle, such as a sample bottle. The transfer device may have a connection means as a connecting collar adapted to receive and retain a sample bottle by an interference fit. Alternatively, the
15 connection means may comprise a screw thread for the sample bottle.

The transfer device may comprise the transfer passage and the overflow outlet means. The transfer passage allows urine to flow from the collection means into the receptacle when the urine in the collection
20 means reaches a first predetermined level, and the overflow outlet means allows urine flow to drain once the level in the receptacle reaches a second predetermined level.

The overflow outlet means comprises passage means arranged to at least
25 one side of the transfer passage to divert flow away from the receptacle.

The transfer passage may be generally U-shaped, having a base which forms a weir over which urine flows from the collection means into the receptacle. The top of the transfer passage forms a further weir over
30 which urine flows to the overflow passage.

The overflow passage directs the overflow urine on at least one side of the transfer passage and through an outlet below the receptacle. The outlet may be suitably shaped or shielded to direct the overflow away from the receptacle, to avoid the outside of the receptacle coming into
5 contact with urine.

Preferably the urine collection device is so constructed and arranged that, in use, the sample bottle is inclined from an upright position. Thus, when the device has been used and the bottle is turned to be upright, the
10 bottle is not full to its brim. The risk of spillage when the sample bottle is removed from the connection means is reduced. A cap can then be placed on the bottle without tainting the user's hands. The device may further be arranged that a portion of the device extends into the bottle thereby displacing a proportion of its contents. This is advantageous as
15 when the bottle is removed from the device, its effective capacity increases, which ensures that urine is not full to the brim of the bottle. The device is therefore hygienic.

Preferably the collection means comprises a funnel-shaped member having
20 a larger end and a narrower end. The larger end forms a receiving end for positioning adjacent the user in use. The first outlet means is at the narrower end. The flow rate variation device may be inserted directly and may be glued into the narrower end of the funnel, or may be located by a separate member attached to the narrower end of the funnel.

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The device is a single-use device, and for ease of use will normally be disposed of in a toilet. It must therefore be readily flushable and biodegradable. The material or materials used must be able to withstand urine at body temperature for a short time, so that the device keeps its
30 shape in use, but then readily softens in water, to enable it to be flushed away. The device could be made of paper, in particular waxed paper, or

a biodegradable polymer such as Plantic (RTM). It is also imperative that the material has no physico-chemical effect on the urine, either by contaminating it or absorption from it. The material may therefore be coated with a suitable inert substance.

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The device (except for an expandable plug) may be injection moulded in one operation (which may be a multi-stage operation). Alternatively the funnel may be formed from a sheet template which is ultrasonically welded, glued or clipped together to form the funnel. The transfer device
10 may be injection moulded onto the funnel, or be formed as a separate part which is glued or welded to the funnel. Where the flow rate variation device is an expandable plug, this is inserted into the funnel as a last stage in assembly. If the plug is located in a separate member, that member may be injection moulded and attached to the funnel in any
15 suitable way.

Preferably the device is constructed and arranged such that it can be stored flat. It may include automatic opening means to open the collection means from the flat storage configuration to an open
20 configuration for use.

Preferably, the flow rate variation device is mounted in the collection means by rails. In particular, the rails may comprise a first pair of rails adapted to secure one side of the device and a second pair of rails adapted
25 to secure the other side of the device. Further, end rails may be provided to prevent the flow rate variation device from sliding from between the first and second pairs of rails. Preferably the rails are injection moulded as part of the collection means. Alternatively, the flow rate variation device may be secured in the collection means by adhesive.

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Preferably the collection means includes a coupling member to connect the transfer device to the collection means. Preferably, the coupling member includes a mounting projection that engages with the transfer device. The mounting projection may include a sealing skirt portion that is adapted to form a seal with the transfer device. The coupling member therefore provides a simple yet secure means of attaching the transfer device to the collection means, while being easy and cost effective to manufacture with the remainder of the device.

There now follows by way of example only a detailed description of two embodiments of the present invention with reference to the accompanying drawings in which;

Figure 1 shows a side view of an embodiment of the device of the invention;

Figure 2 shows a front view of the transfer device shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 shows a rear view of the transfer device detached from the collection means;

Figure 4 shows a further embodiment of the collection means;

Figure 5 shows a further embodiment of an attachment means for connecting the transfer device to the collection means;

Figure 6 shows a detailed sectional side view of the outlet means showing the expandable plug mounted therein; and

Figure 7 shows an end view of the outlet means shown in Figure 6.

The urine collection device 101, as shown in the drawings, is used to provide medical practitioners with urine samples for urinalysis.

5 Figure 1 shows an embodiment of the urine collection device 101 of the invention. The device 101 comprises a collection means in the form of a funnel 102 having a larger end 104 and a narrower end 105. The larger end 104 forms a receiving end for placing adjacent a user to collect urine. A first outlet means 103 is formed in the narrower end 105, which, when
10 the device 101 is in use, is arranged to be the lowermost point. The first outlet means 103 includes a flow rate variation device 106 mounted therein. The collection means 102 has a transfer device 107 affixed thereto, within which is formed a second outlet means 108. The transfer device 107 is adapted to receive a receptacle 110 and includes a transfer
15 passage 111 to enable urine collected by the collection means 102 to be transferred into the receptacle 110.

The collection means 102 comprises a funnel shaped member of flexible polymeric or paper material. However, although the funnel is flexible, it
20 has sufficient rigidity to substantially maintain its shape when it is in use and contains urine. It may be of a polymeric material chosen to have the necessary degree of rigidity or alternatively it may have support ribs or reinforcing elements at predetermined locations. The polymeric material may be of a type that prevents liquid droplets forming on its surface to
25 encourage urine collected in the funnel 102 to drain towards the outlet aperture 103. Alternatively, the collection means 102 may be coated in or treated with such a material. The collection means 102 includes an ergonomically shaped rim 114. The rim 114 is placed against the user's body when the device 101 is in use. The rim 114 is ergonomically shaped
30 to fit comfortably against or adjacent to the patient's body while ensuring minimal spillage. Further, the rim 114 is formed at an angle such that

when the device is in use and position adjacent the patient's body, the sample bottle 110 is at an angle to its upright position. This ensures that when the device 101 is in use, the sample bottle 110 will not fill to the brim thereby making it easier to handle when removing it from the transfer device 107.

The first outlet means 103 comprises an aperture formed in the narrower end 105 of the funnel 102. The flow rate variation device 106 comprises an expandable plug of sponge material that is affixed in the outlet aperture 103 by adhesive. Figures 6 and 7 show an alternative means for mounting the expandable plug 106 in the outlet aperture 103 that is discussed in further detail below. The expandable plug 106 is shaped such that it does not block the outlet aperture 103 when it is dry. Thus, the expandable plug 106 will initially allow urine collected by the collection funnel 102 to flow both around it and out of the outlet aperture 103 and to soak through it and out of the outlet aperture 103. The expandable sponge 106 is adapted to expand when it gets wet and therefore, once sufficient urine has soaked in to it, it will expand to restrict the flow around it thereby only allowing urine to leave the funnel 102 by soaking through the sponge material. Thus, the expandable sponge plug 106 provides a first flow rate out of the device when it is dry and a second, reduced, flow rate out of the device when it is wet. The second flow rate is thereby determined, in part, by the porosity of the plug. It will be appreciated that the plug 106 need not block the outlet means 103 when it gets wet, but simply needs to expand such that the size of the outlet means 103 not blocked by the plug 106 is reduced to obtain the reduced second flow rate out of the device 101. It will also be appreciated that when the plug 106 is adapted to block the outlet 103, the second flow rate that urine will drain from the device can be altered by adjusting the porosity of the material from which the plug is made.

The position of the first outlet means 103 means that when the device 101 is in use, the first outlet means 103 is at the lowest point, enabling substantially all of the urine collected by the collection means 102 to drain away. Therefore the patient is not required to empty the device in
5 any way when they have finished using the device, as the collection means 102 will empty in normal operation by virtue of the position of the first outlet means 103. This feature further improves the hygiene for the patient when using the device 101.

10 The receptacle 110 comprises a sample bottle that is received on the transfer device 107 and held thereon by a securing flange 112 that engages with a standard external screw thread 113 on the bottle 110.

The transfer device 107 is shown in detail in Figures 2 and 3. The
15 collection means 102 and the receptacle 110 have been omitted from these figures for clarity. The transfer device 107 comprises a body 115 having an upper tubular projection 116 adapted to be received within the mouth of the receptacle 110 and a lower tubular projection 117 that forms part of the second outlet means 108. The upper tubular portion 116 defines
20 the transfer passage 111 and includes a connecting collar 119 that is sized to form an interference fit within the mouth of the receptacle 110. The lower tubular projection 117 ensures that urine flowing out of the second outlet means 108 flows clear of the device 101 and therefore reduces the chance of urine coming into contact with the outside surfaces of the
25 device 101 or the user's hands. The securing flange 112 extends from the lower tubular projection 117 toward the upper tubular projection 116.

The second outlet means 108 includes an overflow outlet means 118 comprising a weir formed in the upper tubular portion 116 of the transfer
30 device 107. A passage means comprising two overflow channels 120, 121 located on opposed sides of the transfer passage 111 direct urine that

passes over the weir 118 to leave the device through the second outlet means 108. The channels 120, 121 are formed between the body 115 and the transfer passage 111.

- 5 The overflow outlet means 118 is able to effectively drain urine from the device when the input rate is at least 50ml/s. As the normal urine flow rate of a person is between 10 and 40ml/s, the device allows the drainage of the initial flow of urine (approximately the first 10-20ml) to obtain a mid-stream sample and the overflow outlet means 118 will be able to
10 drain urine at a sufficient rate to ensure the device does not overflow.

The transfer passage 111 comprises a U-shaped transfer channel 122, formed between the overflow channels 120, 121. The transfer passage 111 includes a base 123 that forms a weir 124 over which urine
15 flows to enter the sample bottle 110. Thus, the overflow outlet weir 118 is located at the top of the transfer passage 111 such that when the urine flow is high or when the sample bottle 110 is full and the level rises, urine is able to flow out of the device 101 via the overflow weir 118, channels 120, 121 and the second outlet means 108.

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Figure 3 shows the back of the transfer device 107 without the collection means 102 attached. The transfer device 107 includes a peripheral rim 125 to which the collection means 102 is affixed. In the present embodiment the collection means 102 and the transfer device 107 are
25 formed integrally as a single moulding, but alternatively, the collection means 102 may be affixed by adhesive to rim 125. The collection means 102 closes the body 115 of the transfer device 107 such that only a transfer port 126 of the upper projection 116 extends into the collection means 102.

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The device 101 also has automatic opening means (not shown). The collection means 102 is flexible such that the device 101 can be stored in a substantially flat configuration. Once removed from any packaging, for example, the automatic opening means bias the collection means 102 into an open configuration. In the open configuration the collection means 2 adopts its funnel-like appearance and is thus prepared for receiving urine. The device may be self-opening, if the material is such that it provides the necessary resilience. Alternatively, a separate resilient means may be used to open the device and the device may have hinged portions as necessary.

The material chosen for the device 101 should be biodegradable and flushable, in other words it can be flushed away in a toilet, for example, after use. Any polymeric material must therefore be of a grade that softens in water, but is sufficiently strong that the integrity of the device is not compromised for the duration that urine could be expected to flow through the device. Thus, a material that can resist warm urine for 1 to 2 minutes before losing its integrity is preferable. Alternatively, the internal surface of the device may have a wax coating to prevent premature softening of the material of the device. Alternatively, the material may be a composite of high and low temperature resistant grades of polymeric material. Plantic (RTM), which is a polymer made from plant material, is suitable, as is paper, in particular waxed paper. If needed, the device 101 may have a protective coating (not shown) at least on its surfaces that would be in contact with any urine in normal use. The protective coating ensures that the urine sample being collected does not absorb any chemicals from the material of the device or vice versa, as that could affect the results of any subsequent medical analysis.

The device 101 is a single moulding, except for the expandable sponge 106, and is formed of biodegradable Plantic (RTM) material.

In use, a patient removes the device 101 from its packaging and allows it to automatically open from its flat storage configuration into the open configuration by way of automatic opening means that bias the device
5 such. The sample bottle 110 is attached to the device by pushing it onto the collar 119 to form an interference fit and thus engaging the securing flange 112 with the screw thread 113. The sample bottle 110 is preferably attached by a quarter-turn or at least a half-turn, but the degree of turn can be adjusted by changing the position of the securing
10 flange 112 on the lower tubular projection 117. The device 101 is constructed and arranged such that in use the sample bottle 110 is inclined to its upright position as shown in Figure 1. The user places the device 101 in the appropriate position with the rim 114 adjacent their body. Urine can then be voided into the funnel shaped collection
15 means 102. The user may hold the device 101 by the gripping portion 114. The gripping portion 114 is positioned such that, in use, it is above the level of the urine collected within the funnel and above the level at which it exits the user, preventing it from reaching the user's fingers holding the gripping portion 114. Therefore, the device is
20 hygienic.

The initial flow received by the funnel 102 will drain to the narrower end 105 and leave the device 101 via the first outlet means 103. In doing so the expandable sponge 106 will expand as described above thereby
25 reducing the flow rate out of the device via the first outlet means 103. Thus, the initial flow of urine, which is considered unsuitable for accurate urinalysis, is discarded from the funnel 102. The reduction in flow rate caused by the expansion of the expandable sponge 106 is such that under a range of typical urine flow rates, the level of urine in the
30 funnel 102 will begin to rise.

When the urine level reaches the transfer port 126, it will begin to flow into the transfer passage 111 along base 123 and over weir 124 into the sample bottle 110. The urine level in the funnel 102 will continue to rise once the sample bottle 110 is filled to the predetermined level designated by dashed line 131. At this point, the urine will flow over the overflow weirs 118 and into overflow channels 120, 121 which guide the urine out of the device 101 through the second outlet means 108.

Once the user has finished voiding urine, if the level is above line 131, urine will drain over the overflow weir 118 in combination with the first outlet means 103. When the level has fallen below level 131, urine will drain from the funnel 102 through the first outlet means 103 by soaking through the expandable sponge 106 until the funnel 102 is empty.

The sample bottle 110 can then be removed from the device 102 by overcoming the interference fit between the bottle 110 and the collar 119 and unscrewing it from engagement with the securing flange 112. As the bottle 110 is inclined to its upright position in use, when it is returned to an upright position the urine is not full to the brim and thus removal of the bottle is clean and easy. The risk of spillage is further reduced as a portion of the transfer device 107 extends into the neck of the bottle 110, thereby displacing a corresponding proportion of the bottle's contents. Thus, when the bottle 110 is removed, the urine is not full to the brim. A cap (not shown) can then be screwed on to the bottle 110 to seal it.

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Figure 4 shows another embodiment of the collection means 102 where the rim 114 includes a gripping portion 127. Corresponding reference numerals have been applied to corresponding parts. The gripping portion comprises an outwardly turned flange that the user can use to hold the device 101 when in use. The funnel 102 comprises a flat sheet member 128 that is folded to form the funnel shape and is secured in that

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shape by a securing clip 130. It may alternatively be ultrasonically welded or glued. The flat sheet member 128 is of Plantic (RTM) material, with the transfer device 107 being formed as a separate member also of Plantic (RTM) and glued or welded to the funnel. The transfer
5 device may instead be injection moulded onto the funnel. The sponge 106 is then inserted separately.

Figure 5 shows a modification of the device of Figure 1, of an attachment means 140 for connecting the transfer device 107 to the collection
10 means 102. Corresponding reference numerals have been applied to corresponding parts. The attachment means comprises a coupling member that is adapted to be secured to the collection means 102 and includes means to attach the transfer device 107. The attachment means 140 comprises a generally triangular body 141 having rounded
15 corners. The body 141 is curved to enable it to be secured to the collection means 102 without disrupting the profile of the collection means funnel 102 when it is in its in use configuration. The attachment means 140 is secured to the collection means 102 by adhesive, although it may be secured by direct injection moulding or ultrasonic welding or any
20 other appropriate means. The body 141 also includes an aperture 142 and a mounting projection 143. The aperture 142 is adapted to align with a corresponding aperture (not shown) in the collection means 102 when the attachment means is secured to the collection means 102. The aperture 142 is also adapted to allow the transfer port 126 to extend
25 therethrough into the collection means 102 similar to that shown in the embodiment of Figure 1. The mounting projection 143 comprises a substantially U-shaped flange that extends from the body 141. A portion 144 of the flange extends at a greater height from the body 141 than the remainder of the flange forming a sealing skirt that is adapted to
30 abut and sealingly engage with the lower tubular projection 117 of the transfer device 107. Thus, when assembled, the transfer port 126

sealingly engages with body 141 surrounding the aperture 142 and the transfer device 107 is sealingly received within the mounting projection 143 such that the rim 125 abuts the body 141. The outside surface of the transfer device 107 adjacent the rim 125 therefore forms an interference fit with the mounting projection 143 and skirt 144. It will be appreciated that adhesive could also be used to secure the transfer device 107 to the mounting projection 143.

In this embodiment the collection means 102, the transfer device 107 and the attachment means 140 are made as separate components, and then assembled. They may all be injection moulded from Plantic (RTM). The sponge 106 is also made separately, as with the embodiments of Figures 1 and 4.

Figures 6 and 7 show an alternative way of securing the expandable plug 106 in the outlet means 103 of the narrow end 105 of the collection means 102. In this embodiment, the plug 106 is held by a first pair of rails 150 and a second pair of rails 151. The rails 150, 151 are moulded as part of the collection means 102 and each comprises a pair of spaced raised ridges formed by the localised thickening of the collection means material. The ridges extend from adjacent the outlet means aperture formed in the narrower end 105 toward the larger end 104. The plug 106 is held between the first pair of rails 150 on one side and the second pair of rails 151 on its other side. The plug 106 is prevented from sliding between the first and second pairs of rails 150, 151 by first and second end rails 152 and 153. The first end rail 152 is positioned adjacent a distal end 154 of the first pair of rails 150. The second end rail 153 is positioned adjacent a distal end 155 of the second pair of rails 151. Thus, as the plug 106 has a cross-section of an isosceles trapezium the rails 150, 151, 152 and 153 securely hold the plug within the outlet means 103 of the tapering collection means 102. The ridges are injection

moulded with the collection means 102. However, it will be appreciated that the rails 150, 151, 152 and 153 may be moulded separately from the collection means 102 in either a two-stage moulding process or they may be secured to the collection means 102 by adhesive, for example. The
5 rails 150, 151, 152 and 153 are also able to securely hold the expandable plug 106 in position while it expands in the outlet means 103 thereby ensuring that it restricts the flow through the outlet means an appropriate amount to enable the device to function appropriately.

10 However made, the device 101 is designed to be stored flat and includes automatic opening means (not shown) that open the funnel 102 from a flat configuration to an open configuration.

The features of the present invention ensure that the device is hygienic
15 and very easy to use. The patient can urinate as normal and the device ensures that the flow is controlled such that a sample is effectively collected without overflowing. Further, the patient is not required to interrupt the flow to ensure an appropriate amount is collected.

CLAIMS

1. A urine collection device comprising:
 - a collection means (102) to collect urine voided by a user;
 - 5 first and second outlet means (103, 108) adapted to allow urine collected by the collection means (102) to drain from the device;
 - a transfer passage (111) adapted to transfer urine collected by the collection means (102) to a receptacle (110);
 - the first outlet means (103) including a flow rate variation
 - 10 device (106) so constructed and arranged that an initial drain flow rate through the variation device is greater than a second drain flow rate through the variation device; and
 - the second outlet means (108) comprising an overflow outlet means (118) adapted to allow urine collected by the collection means (102) to
 - 15 drain from the urine collection device at a third drain flow rate equal to or higher than the initial drain flow rate through the variation device.
2. A urine collection device according to claim 1, in which the flow rate variation device (106) comprises an expandable plug accommodated
- 20 in the base of the collection means (102).
3. A urine collection device according to claim 2, in which the plug (106) is constructed and arranged to initially allow a greater initial drain flow rate, but expands on contact with liquid to provide the second
- 25 reduced drain flow rate.
4. A urine collection device according to any preceding claim, in which the flow variation device (106) is formed of a sponge material.
- 30 5. A urine collection device according to claim 4, in which the sponge material is biodegradable.

6. A urine collection device according to any preceding claim, in which the transfer passage (111) is formed in a transfer device (107) connected to the collection means (102).

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7. A urine collection device according to claim 6, in which the transfer device (107) is also adapted for connection to the receptacle (110).

10 8. A urine collection device according to claim 6 or claim 7, in which the transfer device (107) has a connection means comprising a connecting collar (119) adapted to receive and retain the receptacle (110) by an interference fit.

15 9. A urine collection device according to claim 6 or claim 7, in which the connection means comprises a screw thread for securing the receptacle (110).

10 20 10. A urine collection device according to any of claims 6 to 9, in which the transfer device (107) comprises the transfer passage (111) and the overflow outlet means (118).

25 11. A urine collection device according to any preceding claim, in which the device is arranged such that the transfer passage (111) allows urine to flow from the collection means (102) into the receptacle (110) when the urine in the collection means (102) reaches a predetermined level, and the overflow outlet means (118) allows urine flow to drain once the level in the receptacle (110) reaches a second predetermined level.

30 12. A urine collection device according to any preceding claim, in which the overflow outlet means (118) comprises passage

means (120, 121) arranged to at least one side of the transfer passage (111) to divert flow away from the receptacle (110).

13. A urine collection device according to any preceding claim, in
5 which the transfer passage (111) is generally U-shaped, having a base (123) which forms a weir (124) over which urine flows from the collection means (102) into the receptacle (110).

14. A urine collection device according to any preceding claim, in
10 which the top of the transfer passage (111) forms a further weir over which urine flows to the overflow outlet means (118).

15. A urine collection device according to claim 12, in which the
15 overflow passage (120, 121) directs the overflow urine on at least one side of the transfer passage (111) and through an outlet (108) below the receptacle (110).

16. A urine collection device according to claim 15, in which the
20 outlet (108) is suitably shaped or shielded to direct the overflow away from the receptacle (110), to avoid the outside of the receptacle (110) coming into contact with urine.

17. A urine collection device according to any preceding claim, in
25 which the device (101) is so constructed and arranged that, in use, the receptacle (110) is inclined from an upright position.

18. A urine collection device according to any preceding claim, in
which the collection means (102) comprises a funnel-shaped member having a larger end (104) and a narrower end (105).

19. A urine collection device according to claim 18, in which the larger end (104) forms a receiving end for positioning adjacent the user in use.
- 5 20. A urine collection device according to claim 18 or claim 19, in which the first outlet means (103) is at the narrower end (105).
21. A urine collection device according to any preceding claim, in which the flow rate variation device (106) is inserted directly into the
10 narrower end (105) of the funnel.
22. A urine collection device according to any preceding claim, in which the device (101) is readily flushable and biodegradable.
- 15 23. A urine collection device according to any preceding claim, in which the device (101) is of paper.
24. A urine collection device according to any of claims 1 to 22, in which the device (101) is of waxed paper.
- 20 25. A urine collection device according to any of claims 1 to 22, in which the device (101) is of a biodegradable polymer such as Plantic (RTM).
- 25 26. A urine collection device according to any preceding claim, in which the device (101) is constructed and arranged such that it can be stored flat.
27. A urine collection device according to any preceding claim, in
30 which the device (101) includes automatic opening means to open the

collection means (102) from the flat storage configuration to an open configuration for use.

28. A urine collection device according to any preceding claim, in
5 which the flow rate variation device (106) is mounted in the collection means (102) by rails (150, 151).

29. A urine collection device according to claim 28, in which the rails
10 comprise a first pair of rails (150) adapted to secure one side of the device (106) and a second pair of rails (151) adapted to secure the other side of the device (106).

30. A urine collection device according to claim 29, in which the rails
15 also comprise a first end rail (152) adjacent the first pair of rails (150) and a second end rail (153) adjacent the second pair of rails (151).

31. A urine collection device according to any of claims 1 to 27, in
which the flow rate variation device (106) is secured in the collection means (102) by adhesive.

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32. A urine collection device according to claim 6, in which collection means (102) includes a coupling member (140) to connect the transfer device (107) to the collection means (102).

25 33. A urine collection device according to claim 32, in which the coupling member (140) includes a mounting projection (143) that engages with the transfer device (107)

30 34. A urine collection device according to claim 33, in which the mounting projection (143) includes a sealing skirt (144) portion that is adapted to form a seal with the transfer device (107).