The invention claimed is:

1. A ported catheter assembly, comprising:

a catheter adapter having a proximal end, a distal end and a lumen extending therebetween, the catheter adapter further comprising a side port forming a pathway through a sidewall of the catheter adapter and in communication with the lumen;

a blood control septum disposed within the lumen and dividing the lumen into a proximal chamber and a distal chamber;

a septum actuator having an outer diameter and disposed within the proximal chamber and having a base, a tip and a body extending therebetween, the tip being positioned proximate to the blood control septum and the base being positioned proximate to the proximal end of the catheter adapter;

an actuator retention tab having an outer diameter and positioned on an outer surface of the body; and

a valve disposed within the lumen and forming a seal between the lumen and the pathway of the side port, the valve having a retention ring comprising an inner diameter that is greater than the outer diameter of the septum actuator and less than the outer diameter of the actuator retention tab, wherein the actuator retention tab is positioned on the outer surface of the body between the retention ring and the side port such that rigidity is provided to a proximal portion of the valve between the retention ring and the side port, and a distal end of the valve collapses in response to fluid being injected into the side port.

2. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the valve comprises a flexible tube having an outer diameter that is approximately the same size as an inner diameter of the lumen, whereby the valve is retained within the lumen by an interference fit.

3. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the proximal end of the catheter adapter further comprises an opening through which a separate device may be inserted to contact the base of the septum actuator and advance the tip of the septum actuator through a slit of the blood control septum.

4. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the base comprises an outer diameter that is greater than the inner diameter of the retention ring.

5. The assembly of claim 4, wherein the retention ring further comprises a plurality of vents.

6. The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a first distance between the actuator retention ring and the base, such that when the base contacts the retention ring, the tip of the septum actuator is advanced through a slit of the septum and the interface between the base and the actuator

retention ring prevents the tip of the septum actuator from further advancement through the slit.

7. The assembly of claim 6, wherein the first distance is approximately equal to a second distance between a distal most surface of the tip of the septum actuator and a distal most surface of the blood control septum when the actuator retention tab is in contact with the actuator retention ring.

8. The assembly of claim 1, further comprising an antimicrobial coating applied to the retention tab, wherein the retention tab is positioned within a fluid pathway through the lumen of the catheter adapter.

9. The assembly of claim 8, wherein the antimicrobial coating comprises an antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of chlorhexidine diacetate, chlorhexidine gluconate, alexidine, silver sulfadiazine, silver acetate, silver citrate hydrate, cetrimide, cetyl pyridium chloride, benzalkonium chloride, o-phthalaldehyde, and silver element.

10. The assembly of claim 8, wherein the antimicrobial coating comprising an eluting antimicrobial coating whereby the eluting antimicrobial coating provides a zone of inhibition within a fluid within the lumen of the catheter adapter.

11. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the retention ring is disposed at a proximal end of the valve.

12. A ported catheter assembly, comprising:

a catheter adapter having a proximal end, a distal end and a lumen extending therebetween, the catheter adapter further comprising a side port forming a pathway

through a sidewall of the catheter adapter and in communication with the lumen;

a blood control septum disposed within the lumen and dividing the lumen into a proximal chamber and a distal chamber;

a septum actuator having an outer diameter and disposed within the proximal chamber and having a base, a tip and a body extending therebetween, the tip being positioned proximate to the blood control septum and the base being positioned proximate to the proximal end of the catheter adapter;

an actuator retention tab having an outer diameter and positioned on an outer surface of the body; and

a valve disposed within the lumen and forming a seal between the lumen and the pathway of the side port, the valve having a retention ring comprising an inner diameter that is greater than the outer diameter of the septum actuator and less than the outer diameter of the actuator retention tab, wherein the actuator retention tab is positioned on the outer surface of the body between the side port and the blood control septum such that rigidity is provided to a distal portion of the valve between the side port and the blood control septum and a proximal end of the valve collapses in response to fluid being injected into the side port.

13. The ported catheter assembly of claim 12, wherein the retention ring prevents the retention tab from moving proximal to the side port.