

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A point-of-care screening kit (1) for use by health care workers to make custom test strips to screen the bodily fluids of an individual for various, medical conditions, said kit comprising:
 - a reagent (12),
 - a substrate (18) having an outer surface (18a) that has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to:
 - a) receive said reagent (12) and react with said reagent so as to cause said substrate outer surface to acquire a first characteristic color that is indicative of one of said medical conditions for which said screening is being undertaken, and, b) upon the addition of a specified quantity of said bodily fluid of said individual to a portion of said substrate containing said reagent, acquire a second characteristic color that is indicative of , ~~and wherein said substrate outer surface's acquisition of said second characteristic color when said individual having has a specific one of said various, medical conditions for which said screening is being undertaken~~ ,
 - a container (10) having an outer surface (10a) that includes an orifice (10b), said container having a configuration adapted ~~configured~~ to receive and store a prescribed quantity of said reagent (12), and
 - a reagent-dispensing tip (14) that has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to dispense said reagent which ~~that~~ is stored in said container.
2. The point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 1, wherein:
 - said container outer surface (10a) has ~~is configured with~~ indicia (26) that is indicative ~~reflective~~ of ~~which one of said various medical conditions is being screened for with the use of said container~~ ~~and~~ one of said characteristic colors which are involved with said screening for one of said medical conditions ~~is indicative of said individual having said screened for medical condition~~.
3. The point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
 - a container closing means (16) which has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to cover said reagent-dispensing tip (14) of said container when said reagent-dispensing tip is not in use.
4. The point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 2, further comprising:
 - a container closing means (16) which has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to cover said reagent-dispensing tip (14) of said container when said reagent-dispensing tip is not in use.
5. The point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 3, wherein:

said container closing means (16) ~~has is further configured with~~ indicia (26) that is indicative reflective of one of said characteristic colors which are involved with said screening for one of said medical conditions ~~is indicative of said individual having said screened for medical condition.~~

6. The point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 4, wherein:

said container closing means (16) ~~has is further configured with~~ indicia (26) that is indicative reflective of one of said characteristic colors which are involved with said screening for one of said medical conditions ~~is indicative of said individual having said screened for medical condition.~~

7. The point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

said reagent (12) has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to yield a dichotomous color change on said substrate, and

said substrate is a filter paper having a configuration chosen from the group including a roll or pre-perforated strips, individual strips and individual sheets.

8. The point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 7, wherein:

said reagent (12) is a protein reagent that has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to test for the presence of protein when said bodily fluid of said individual is urine, and wherein said protein reagent includes appropriate quantities of the following components: water, isopropyl alcohol, citric acid monohydrate, sodium citrate tribasic dihydrate ~~monohydrate~~, tetrabromophenol blue and tartrazine.

9. The point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 8, wherein:

said appropriate quantities of said protein reagent components are in the range of: water – 5-10 mL, isopropyl alcohol – 0-5 mL, citric acid monohydrate – 1-1.5 g, sodium citrate tribasic dihydrate ~~monohydrate~~ – 0.22-0.65 g, tetrabromophenol blue – 5-15 mg, and tartrazine – 0-15 mg.

10. The point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

said reagent (12) is a plurality of reagents selected from the group consisting of reagents used to screen test for: (a) protein, (b) glucose, (c) nitrites, (d) leukocytes, (e) ketone bodies, (f) bilirubin, and (g) urobilinogen,

said container (10) is a plurality of containers, each of which has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to receive and store one of said plurality of reagents,

said reagent-dispensing tip (14) is a plurality reagent-dispensing tips, each of which has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to dispense a uniform, prescribed quantity of said reagent that is stored in said container with which said reagent-dispensing tip is associated, and

wherein each of said container outer surfaces (10a) ~~has is configured with~~ indicia (26) that is indicative ~~are reflective of which one of said various medical conditions is being~~

~~screened for with the use of said container and one of said characteristic colors which are involved with said screening for one of said medical conditions is indicative of said individual having said-screened for medical condition.~~

11. The point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 10, wherein:

each of said reagents (12) has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to yield a dichotomous color change on said substrate.

12. The point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

said reagent (12) is a plurality of reagents, each of which has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to yield a dichotomous color change on said substrate,

said container (10) is a plurality of containers, each of which has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to receive and store one of said plurality of reagents,

said reagent-dispensing tip (14) is a plurality reagent-dispensing tips, each of which has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to ~~and~~ dispense a uniform, prescribed quantity of said reagent that is stored in said container,

wherein each of said container outer surfaces (10a) has ~~is configured with~~ indicia (26) that is indicative ~~are reflective of which one of said various medical conditions is being screened for with the use of said container and one of said characteristic colors which are involved with said screening for one of said medical conditions is indicative of said individual having said-screened for medical-condition,~~

wherein one of said plurality of reagents is a protein reagent that has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to test for the presence of protein when said bodily fluid of said individual is urine, and

wherein said protein reagent includes appropriate quantities of the following components: water, isopropyl alcohol, citric acid monohydrate, sodium citrate tribasic monohydrate, tetrabromophenol blue, and tartrazine.

13. A method of providing a point-of-care screening kit for use by health care workers to make custom test strips to screen the bodily fluids of an individual for various , medical conditions, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a reagent (12),

providing a substrate (18) having an outer surface (18a) that has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to: a) receive said reagent and react with said reagent so as to cause said substrate outer surface to acquire a first characteristic color that is indicative of one of said medical conditions for which said screening is being undertaken, and, b) upon the addition of a specified quantity of said bodily fluid of said individual to a portion of said substrate containing said reagent, acquire a second characteristic color; ~~and wherein said-~~

~~substrate outer surface's acquisition of said second characteristic color when said individual has a specific one of said various, medical conditions~~ that is indicative of said individual having said medical condition for which said screening is being undertaken,

providing a container (10) having an outer surface (10a) that includes an orifice (10b), said container having a configuration adapted to receive and store a prescribed quantity of said reagent, and

providing a reagent-dispensing tip (14) that has a configuration adapted to dispense said reagent which is stored in said container.

14. The method of providing the point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 13, wherein:

said container outer surface (10a) ~~has is configured with~~ indicia (26) that is indicative ~~reflective~~ of ~~which one of said various medical conditions is being screened for with the use of said container~~ and one of said characteristic colors which are involved with said screening for one of said medical conditions ~~is indicative of said individual having said screened for medical condition.~~

15. The method of providing the point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 13, further comprising:

providing a container closing means (16) which has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to cover said reagent-dispensing tip (14) of said container when said reagent-dispensing tip is not in use.

16. The method of providing the point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 14, further comprising:

providing a container closing means (16) which has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to cover said reagent-dispensing tip (14) of said container when said reagent-dispensing tip is not in use.

17. The method of providing the point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 15, wherein:

said container closing means (16) ~~has is further configured with~~ indicia (26) that is indicative ~~reflective~~ of one of said characteristic colors which are involved with said screening for one of said medical conditions ~~is indicative of said individual having said screened for medical condition.~~

18. The method of providing the point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 16, wherein:

said container closing means (16) ~~has is further configured with~~ indicia (26) that is indicative ~~reflective~~ of one of said characteristic colors which are involved with said screening for one of said medical conditions ~~is indicative of said individual having said screened for medical condition.~~

19. The method of providing the point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 13, wherein:

said reagent (12) has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to yield a dichotomous color change on said substrate, and

said substrate is a filter paper having a configuration chosen from the group including a roll or pre-perforated strips, individual strips and individual sheets.

20. The method of providing the point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 19, wherein:

said reagent (12) is a protein reagent that has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to test for the presence of protein when said bodily fluid of said individual is urine, and wherein said protein reagent includes appropriate quantities of the following components: water, isopropyl alcohol, citric acid monohydrate, sodium citrate tribasic dihydrate ~~monohydrate~~, tetrabromophenol blue and tartrazine.

21. The method of providing the point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 20, wherein:

said appropriate quantities of said protein reagent components are in the range of: water – 5-10 mL, isopropyl alcohol – 0-5 mL, citric acid monohydrate – 1-1.5 g, sodium citrate tribasic dihydrate ~~monohydrate~~ – 0.22-0.65 g, tetrabromophenol blue – 5-15 mg, and tartrazine – 0-15 mg.

22. The method of providing the point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 13, wherein:

said reagent (12) is a plurality of reagents selected from the group consisting of reagents used to screen ~~test~~ for: (a) protein, (b) glucose, (c) nitrites, (d) leukocytes, (e) ketone bodies, (f) bilirubin, and (g) urobilinogen,

said container (10) is a plurality of containers, each of which has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to receive and store one of said plurality of reagents,

said reagent-dispensing tip (14) is a plurality reagent-dispensing tips, each of which has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to dispense a uniform, prescribed quantity of said reagent that is stored in said container with which said reagent-dispensing tip is associated, and

wherein each of said container outer surfaces (10a) ~~has is configured with~~ indicia (26) that is indicative ~~are reflective of which one of said various medical conditions is being~~

~~screened for with the use of said container and one of said characteristic colors which are involved with said screening for one of said medical conditions is indicative of said individual having said-screened for medical condition.~~

23. The method of providing the point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 22, wherein:
each of said reagents (12) has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to yield a dichotomous color change on said substrate.

24. The method of providing the point-of-care screening kit as recited in Claim 13, wherein:

said reagent (12) is a plurality of reagents, each of which has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to yield a dichotomous color change on said substrate,

said container (10) is a plurality of containers, each of which has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to receive and store one of said plurality of reagents,

said reagent-dispensing tip (14) is a plurality reagent-dispensing tips, each of which has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to ~~and~~ dispense a uniform, prescribed quantity of said reagent that is stored in said container,

wherein each of said container outer surfaces (10a) has ~~is configured with~~ indicia (26) that is indicative ~~are reflective of which one of said various medical conditions is being screened for with the use of said container and one of said characteristic colors which are involved with said screening for one of said medical conditions is indicative of said individual having said-screened for medical-condition,~~

wherein one of said plurality of reagents is a protein reagent that has a configuration adapted ~~is configured~~ to test for the presence of protein when said bodily fluid of said individual is urine, and

wherein said protein reagent includes appropriate quantities of the following components:
water, isopropyl alcohol, citric acid monohydrate, sodium citrate tribasic monohydrate, tetrabromophenol blue, and tartrazine.