Abstract

A needle assembly has an elongate hollow handle with a proximal end with provisions for attaching a fluid handling device and a distal end with an opening. The assembly has a needle with a distal point, a proximal end and an open passageway. The assembly also has an elongate substantially transparent needle hub with a distal end portion that has the needle fixedly attached. The needle hub is disposed for coaxial slidable movement within the hollow handle from a first position wherein the needle projects outwardly from the handle. The needle hub includes an elongate flashback chamber inside that is fluidly connected to the needle for viewing flashback. The needle hub is operatively biased for axial movement from the first position to a proximal rest position within the handle. When the needle hub is in the proximal position, the needle is substantially contained within the handle. The hollow handle has a latch that releasably retains the needle hub in the first position and an operative trigger to release the latch so that the operatively biased hub moves axially. The assembly has a hollow flexible tube inside the hollow handle extending from the proximal end of the hub to the attachment for the fluid handling device. When the hub is in the first position, the tube connects the flashback chamber to the attachment for the fluid handling device. When the latch is released and the needle hub moves to the proximal rest position, the flexible tube substantially collapses.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced