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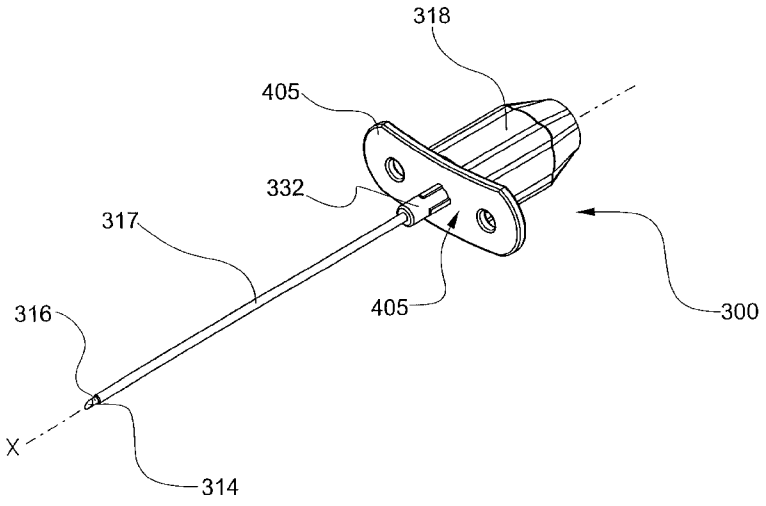
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(54) Title: SAFETY SHIELD FOR MEDICAL NEEDLES



(57) Abstract: A medical needle shield apparatus (300) is provided that includes a needle hub (332) having an outer needle cannula (317) extending therefrom. An inner needle (316) is disposed for slidable movement with the outer needle cannula (317). At least one shield (300) is extensible from a retracted position to an extended position to enclose a distal end of the inner needle (317). The shield (300) includes a binding member (364) disposed within the shield (300) and defines binding surfaces (368) that form an aperture (366) configured for slidable receipt of the inner needle (316). The binding member (364) includes at least one drag inducing member (362) that engages the inner needle (316) during slidable receipt to create a drag force. The drag force facilitates rotation of the binding member (364) such that the binding surfaces (368) engage the inner needle (316) to prevent slidable movement. The binding member (364) further includes a needle communicating surface (372) extending therefrom that engages the inner needle (316) to prevent rotation of the binding member (364).

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