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(71) Applicant: **BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY**
[US/US]; 1 Becton Drive, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey
07417 (US).

(72) Inventors: **ISAACSON, S. Ray**; 671 South 850 West, Lay-
ton, Utah 84041 (US). **STOUT, Marty**; 3113 West Swiss
Pass Circle, South Jordan, Utah 84095 (US). **MCKINNON,**
Austin; 5618 Adeline Court, Herriman, Utah 84096 (US).

(74) Agent: **METCALF, Craig**; Kirton McConkie, 36 South
State Street, Suite 1900, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111 (US).

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patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*
- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the
earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

(54) Title: NEEDLE PROTECTION DEVICE AND RELATED SYSTEMS

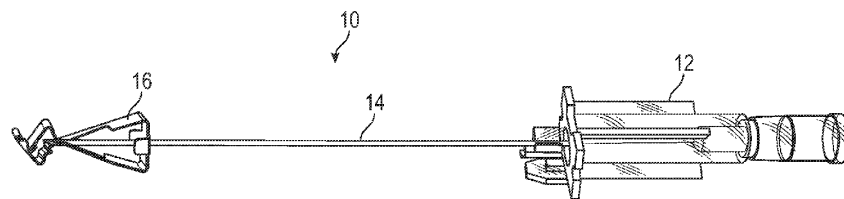


FIG. 1A
(Prior Art)

(57) Abstract: A needle protection device may include a hub, a housing disposed within the lumen of the hub, and a needle. The housing may include a tubular portion, which may include two arms coupled thereto. Each of the arms may include a first end coupled to the tubular portion, a second end disposed within the tubular portion, and a bent portion therebetween. The second end of the first arm and the second end of the second arm may form a duckbill valve. A needle may extend through the housing. Withdrawing a sharp distal tip of the needle in a proximal direction beyond the second end of each of the arms may close the duckbill valve and facilitate removal of the housing from the hub. Shielding the sharp distal tip of the needle in this manner may prevent blood spatter and exposure to blood and blood-borne pathogens.

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