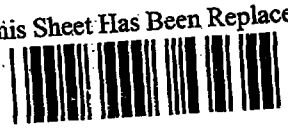
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ABSTRACT

A safety syringe assembly includes a hypodermic syringe having a syringe barrel with opposed proximal and distal ends. A needle cannula is mounted to the distal end of the barrel. A collar mounted around the syringe barrel includes at least one radially inwardly directed recess. A safety shield is positioned over the syringe barrel for telescoping movement from a proximal position where the needle cannula is exposed to a distal position where the syringe safety shield protectively surrounds the needle cannula. The safety shield is rotatable with respect to the barrel when the safety shield is in its proximal position. The safety shield includes an inside surface having at least one inwardly directed projection sized and positioned to pass through the recess in the collar when the safety shield is rotated with respect to the barrel to align the projection and the recess. When alignment is achieved the safety shield can be moved form the proximal position to the distal position. The collar and the projection prevent movement of the safety shield from the proximal position when the projection and the recess are not aligned.