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(54) Title: SWAB ASSEMBLY FOR SPECIMEN COLLECTION

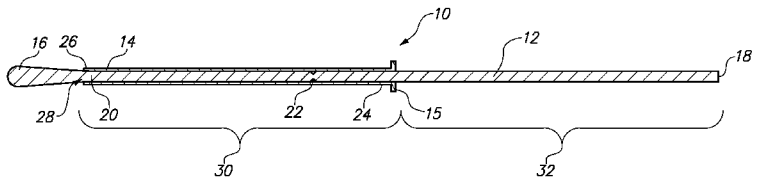


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A swab assembly for collecting a specimen from a patient includes an elongated shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, and a notch between its proximal and distal ends; a sheath having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending between its proximal and distal ends, wherein a portion of the elongated shaft is disposed within the sheath lumen, and the sheath is slidable relative to the elongated shaft; and a collection tip coupled to the distal end of the elongated shaft and configured for obtaining the specimen. The sheath is slidable between a first position in which the shaft notch is disposed within the sheath lumen and wherein the sheath protects the elongated shaft from breaking at the notch, and a second position in which the shaft notch is exposed out of the sheath lumen.

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