CLAIMS

1. A retractable needle for a syringe comprising a barrel and a plunger comprising a portion capable of engaging the retractable needle for retraction of the retractable needle, said retractable needle comprising a cannula, a needle body having a plunger-engaging member, at least one aperture and an elongate portion which houses at least part of the cannula, the cannula comprising an end which is in fluid communication with the at least one aperture, wherein the at least one aperture is located between the plunger-engaging member and the elongate portion.

2. The retractable needle of Claim 1, wherein the at least one aperture extends transversely through the retractable needle body relative to a longitudinal axis of the cannula.

3. The retractable needle of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the at least one aperture is locatable in fluid communication with fluid contents of the syringe barrel.

4. The retractable syringe of any preceding claim, wherein the cannula end does not extend into the plunger-engaging member.

5. The retractable needle of Claim 4, wherein the cannula end extends into a space defined by the at least one aperture.

6. The retractable needle of Claim 4 wherein the cannula end terminates at a periphery of the at least one aperture without extending into a space defined by the at least one aperture.

7. The retractable needle of Claim 4, wherein the cannula end terminates within the elongate body in fluid communication with a bore which is in fluid communication with the at least one aperture.

8. The retractable needle of any preceding claim which is unitary.

9. The retractable needle of Claim 8, wherin the cannula and the needle body are co-moulded to form the unitary retractable needle.

10. The retractable needle of any one of Claims 1-7, wherein the needle body and the cannula are separate components of the retractable needle.

11. The retractable needle of Claim 10, wherein the needle body is an overmould of the cannula.

12. The retractable needle of Claim 10, wherein the retractable needle body comprises a first body member and a second body member.

13. The retractable needle of Claim 12, wherein prior to assembly the first body member comprises the cannula and the second body member comprises the plunger-engaging member.

14. The retractable needle of any preceding claim, wherein the plunger-engaging member comprises one or more chamfered surfaces.

15. The retractable needle of any preceding claim, wherein the plunger-engaging member comprises one or more hook portions for engaging the portion of the plunger capable of engaging the plunger-engaging member.

16. The retractable needle of any preceding claim which further comprises one or a plurality of mating portions capable of engaging complementary mating portions of a needle seal.

17. The retractable needle of Claim 16, wherein the mating portions are ribs capable of releasably engaging grooves of the needle seal.

18. A needle assembly mountable to a barrel of a syringe comprising a plunger, the needle assembly comprising the retractable needle of any one of Claims 1-17.

19. The needle assembly of Claim 18, which further comprises a needle seal.

20. The needle assembly of Claim 19, wherein the needle seal comprises one or a plurality of mating portions capable of engaging complementary mating portions of the retractable needle.

21. The needle assembly of Claim 20, wherein the mating portions are grooves capable of releasably engaging ribs of the retractable needle body.

22. The needle assembly of any one of Claims 18-21, which is mountable to a syringe barrel adapter comprising a body that includes a needle portion and a barrel-engaging portion.

23. A retractable syringe comprising a barrel, the needle assembly of any one of Claims 18-22 mounted to the barrel and a plunger comprising a portion capable of engaging the plunger-engaging member of the retractable needle.

24. The retractable syringe of Claim 23, wherein the needle assembly is mounted to a syringe barrel adapter comprising a body that includes a needle portion and a barrel-engaging portion.

25. The retractable syringe of Claims 23 or Claim 24, wherein the plunger comprises a plunger member, a plunger outer, a controlling member and biasing means, wherein the plunger member, the plunger outer and the controlling member co-operate to retain the biasing means in an initially energized state.

26. The retractable syringe of Claim 25, wherein the biasing member is a spring.

27. The retractable syringe of any one of Claims 23-26, which is a prefilled retractable syringe.

CLAIMS

1. A retractable needle for a syringe comprising a barrel and a plunger comprising a portion capable of engaging the retractable needle for retraction of the retractable needle, said retractable needle comprising a cannula, a needle body having a plunger-engaging member, at least one aperture and an elongate portion which houses at least part of the cannula, the cannula comprising an end which is in fluid communication with the at least one aperture, wherein the at least one aperture is located between the plunger-engaging member and the elongate portion and wherein the cannula end does not extend into the plunger-engaging member and extends into a space defined by the at least one aperture.

2. The retractable needle of Claim 1, wherein the at least one aperture extends transversely through the retractable needle body relative to a longitudinal axis of the cannula.

3. The retractable needle of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the at least one aperture is locatable in fluid communication with fluid contents of the syringe barrel.

4. The retractable needle of any preceding claim which is unitary.

5. The retractable needle of Claim 8, wherin the cannula and the needle body are co-moulded to form the unitary retractable needle.

6. The retractable needle of any one of Claims 1-5, wherein the needle body and the cannula are separate components of the retractable needle.

7. The retractable needle of Claim 6, wherein the needle body is an overmould of the cannula.

8. The retractable needle of Claim 6, wherein the retractable needle body comprises a first body member and a second body member.

9. The retractable needle of Claim 8, wherein prior to assembly the first body member comprises the cannula and the second body member comprises the plunger-engaging member.

10. The retractable needle of any preceding claim, wherein the plunger-engaging member comprises one or more chamfered surfaces.

11. The retractable needle of any preceding claim, wherein the plunger-engaging member comprises one or more hook portions for engaging the portion of the plunger capable of engaging the plunger-engaging member.

12. The retractable needle of any preceding claim which further comprises one or a plurality of mating portions capable of engaging complementary mating portions of a needle seal.

13. The retractable needle of Claim 12, wherein the mating portions are ribs capable of releasably engaging grooves of the needle seal.

14. A needle assembly mountable to a barrel of a syringe comprising a plunger, the needle assembly comprising the retractable needle of any one of Claims 1-13.

15. The needle assembly of Claim 14, which further comprises a needle seal.

16. The needle assembly of Claim 15, wherein the needle seal comprises one or a plurality of mating portions capable of engaging complementary mating portions of the retractable needle.

17. The needle assembly of Claim 16, wherein the mating portions are grooves capable of releasably engaging ribs of the retractable needle body.

18. The needle assembly of any one of Claims 14-17, which is mountable to a syringe barrel adapter comprising a body that includes a needle portion and a barrel-engaging portion.

19. A retractable syringe comprising a barrel, the needle assembly of any one of Claims 14-18 mounted to the barrel and a plunger comprising a portion capable of engaging the plunger-engaging member of the retractable needle.

20. The retractable syringe of Claim 19, wherein the needle assembly is mounted to a syringe barrel adapter comprising a body that includes a needle portion and a barrel-engaging portion.

21. The retractable syringe of Claims 19 or Claim 20, wherein the plunger comprises a plunger member, a plunger outer, a controlling member and biasing means, wherein the plunger member, the plunger outer and the

controlling member co-operate to retain the biasing means in an initially energized state.

22. The retractable syringe of Claim 21, wherein the biasing member is a spring.

23. The retractable syringe of any one of Claims 19-22, which is a prefilled retractable syringe.