THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A system including:

at least one medical electrode;

a radio-frequency (RF) tag with an identifier (ID) that identifies the at least one medical electrode;

at least one substrate that attaches the at least one medical electrode to the RF tag;

a medical device having a device identifier (ID) that identifies the medical device; and

a radio-frequency (RF) reader that operates with the medical device, the RF tag being readable by the RF reader.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one substrate is a removable substrate that is arranged to be manually removable from the medical electrode and the RF tag.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the at least one substrate includes:

a first substrate layer removably attached to one side of the medical electrode and one side of the RF tag; and

a second substrate layer removably attached to an opposite side of the medical electrode and opposite side of the RF tag.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one substrate is an integral substrate that is arranged to maintain the at least one medical electrode together with the RF tag in use.

5. The system of claim 1, including a plurality of medical electrodes and a shared substrate that holds the plurality of medical electrodes and the RF tag together.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein use of the medical electrode with the medical device is controlled based on a control signal determined from a combination of the RF tag ID and the device ID.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the medical device determines a compatibility between the device ID and the tag ID based on a combination of the RF tag ID and the device ID.

8. A system including:

a radio-frequency (RF) reader that reads an RF tag attached to a medical electrode to determine a tag identifier (ID) that identifies the medical electrode; and

a medical device, including the RF reader, that operates with the medical electrode, the medical device having a device identifier (ID) that identifies the medical device.

9. The system of claim 8, the medical device including a data storage device that stores data representing the tag ID linked to the device ID.

10. The system of claim 8 or 9, wherein the data storage device stores data representing the tag ID and the device ID linked to signals recorded by the medical device using the medical electrode.

11. The system of any one of claims 8 to 10, wherein use of the medical electrode with the medical device is controlled based on a control signal determined from a combination of the tag ID and the device ID.

12. The system of claim 1, including a control system that:

receives the tag ID and the device ID;

accesses data representing pre-determined compatibilities between a plurality of stored device IDs and stored tag IDs stored in a data storage device; and

generates the control signal by determining whether the tag ID and the device ID are compatible according to the pre-determined compatibilities.

13. A method comprising the steps of:

reading an RF tag attached to a medical electrode to determine a tag identifier (ID) that identifies the medical electrode; and

accessing a device identifier (ID) that identifies a medical device that operates with the medical electrode.

14. The method of claim 13, including storing data representing the tag ID linked to the device ID.

15. The method of claim 13 or 14, including storing data representing the tag ID and the device ID linked to signals recorded by the medical device using the medical electrode.

16. The method of any one of claims 13 to 15, including controlling use of the medical electrode with the medical device based on a control signal determined from a combination of the tag ID and the device ID.

17. The method of any one of claims 13 to 16, further including the steps of:

receiving the tag ID and the device ID;

accessing data representing pre-determined compatibilities between a plurality of stored device IDs and stored tag IDs stored in a data storage device; and

generating the control signal by determining whether the tag ID and the device ID are compatible according to the pre-determined compatibilities.

18. A computer-implemented method, including the steps of:

receiving, via a radio-frequency (RF) reader, tag identification data representing a tag identifier (ID) from an RF tag attached to a medical electrode;

accessing device identification data representing a device identifier (ID) associated with a medical device operable to use at least one medical electrode;

determining a control signal corresponding to the combination of the tag ID and the device ID; and

controlling the use of the medical electrode with the medical device based on the control signal.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the control signal is determined by:

sending the combination of the tag ID and the device ID to an external device; and

receiving the control signal from the external device.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein controlling the use of the medical electrode with the medical device further includes:

outputting an alert if the use of the medical electrode is prohibited or limited.

21. A computer-implemented method, including the steps of:

receiving, from a medical device operable to use at least one medical electrode, tag identification data representing a tag identifier (ID), the tag identification data being obtained from an RF tag attached to the medical electrode;

obtaining device identification data representing a device identifier (ID) associated with the medical device;

determining a control signal corresponding to the combination of the tag ID and the device ID; and

outputting the control signal that controls the use of the medical electrode with the medical device.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein outputting the control signal includes sending the control signal to the medical device.

23. An assembly including:

a medical device that monitors or generates electrical signals and having a device identifier (ID) that identifies the medical device;

a conductive connector in or on the medical device for connecting to a medical electrode; and

a radio-frequency (RF) reader in or on the medical device for reading an RF tag attached to the medical electrode to determine a tag identifier (ID) that identifies the medical electrode,

24. The assembly of claim 23, wherein use of the medical electrode with the medical device is controlled based on a control signal determined from a combination of the tag ID and the device ID.

25. The assembly of claim 23, wherein the medical device determines a compatibility between the device ID and the tag ID based on a combination of the tag ID and the device ID.