CLAIMS

1. A vascular access device comprising:

a catheter adapter;

a catheter that extends distally from the catheter adapter; and

an antimicrobial coating applied to at least a portion of the catheter, the antimicrobial coating including an increased diameter portion positioned adjacent to the catheter adapter and comprising a base material that releases one or more antimicrobial agents when the antimicrobial coating is inserted within a patient's skin, the base material providing kink resistance to the catheter.

2. The vascular access device of claim 1, wherein the diameter of the increased diameter portion increases towards the catheter adapter.

3. The vascular access device of claim 1, wherein a distal end of the antimicrobial coating is positioned proximal to a distal end of the catheter.

4. The vascular access device of claim 3, wherein the distal end of the antimicrobial coating is positioned at a distance from the catheter adapter that is based on an intended length of the catheter that should exist between an intimal layer of a vein and the catheter adapter when the catheter is inserted intravenously.

5. The vascular access device of claim 1, wherein the length of the antimicrobial coating is between 7 mm and 12 mm.

6. The vascular access device of claim 1, wherein the base material is hydroscopic.

7. The vascular access device of claim 1, wherein the base material is one of a UV cured acrylate-urethane or a heat-cured polyurethane.

8. The vascular access device of claim 1, wherein the catheter comprises a material, and a hardness of the base material is greater than a hardness of the material of the catheter.

9. The vascular access device of claim 1, wherein a thickness of the antimicrobial coating at a distal end of the antimicrobial coating is between 10 microns and 100 microns.

10. The vascular access device of claim 1, further comprising:

an antimicrobial lubricant applied to the catheter.

11. The vascular access device of claim 10, wherein the antimicrobial lubricant is applied to a portion of the catheter that does not include the antimicrobial coating.

12. A vascular access device comprising:

a catheter adapter;

a catheter that extends distally from the catheter adapter; and

an antimicrobial coating on the catheter, the antimicrobial coating extending from the catheter adapter towards a distal end of the catheter, the antimicrobial coating having an increased diameter portion adjacent the catheter adapter.

13. The vascular access device of claim 12, wherein the antimicrobial coating comprises a base material that elutes one or more antimicrobial agents when the antimicrobial coating is positioned within a patient's skin.

14. The vascular access device of claim 13, wherein the antimicrobial coating has a hardness in excess of a hardness of the catheter.

15. The vascular access device of claim 12, wherein a distal end of the antimicrobial coating is positioned at a length from the catheter adapter that corresponds with a length of the catheter that is intended to exist between an intimal layer of a vein and the catheter adapter when the catheter is inserted into the vein.

16. A catheter comprising:

an antimicrobial coating applied to a portion of the catheter, the antimicrobial coating having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end comprising an increased diameter portion, the antimicrobial coating comprising a base material that releases one or more antimicrobial agents when the antimicrobial coating is positioned within a patient's skin; and

a catheter adapter from which the catheter extends, the catheter being positioned within the catheter adapter such that the proximal end of the antimicrobial coating is positioned adjacent the catheter adapter.