STATEMENTS OF INVENTION

1. A medical dressing including a one-way valve and a closure member capable of optionally and reversibly occluding the valve so as to protect against intrusion of contaminating materials into the valve from outside the dressing.

2. The medical dressing of claim 1 wherein the dressing is a chest seal.

3. The medical dressing of claim 1 comprising:

(a) a flexible panel having an inner side and an outer side and having a layer of an adhesive material on the inner side;

(b) wherein said one-way valve is included in a valve assembly mounted to the flexible panel, the valve assembly including a valve body defining a passage therethrough, between the inner and outer sides of the flexible panel, and the valve assembly being arranged to allow fluids to flow through the passage only in an outward direction with respect to the valve assembly and the dressing; and

(c) wherein said closure member selectively covers a portion of the valve body, thereby excluding foreign matter from entering into the valve body and preventing fluid flow through the passage.

4. The medical dressing of claim 3 wherein the closure member includes a resiliently engageable catch arranged to grip the valve body to keep the closure member in a position covering said portion of the valve body.

5. The medical dressing of claim 4 wherein the valve body includes an annular flange and the catch is arranged to engage the flange.

6. The medical dressing of claim 5 wherein the flange defines an undercut groove and the catch is arranged to engage the groove.

7. The medical dressing of claim 3 wherein the valve body includes a flange having an inner side, and wherein the closure member includes an annular interior lip arranged

to engage the flange on said inner side and thereby fasten the closure removably to the valve body.

8. The medical dressing of claim 3 wherein the closure member is of a flexible membraneous material and is attached removably to the valve body by a re-adherable adhesive.

9. The medical dressing of claim 3 wherein the closure member has a protruding handle that includes a non-slip grip surface including a plurality of ribs and grooves.

10. The medical dressing of claim 3 wherein the closure member is of a soft flexible material elastically gripping the valve body.

11. The medical dressing of claim 3 wherein the closure member is of a rigid but resiliently flexible material.

12. The medical dressing of claim 3 wherein the closure member remains attached to the valve body during use of the medical dressing, regardless of whether the closure member is covering the portion of the valve so as to exclude foreign matter and prevent flow through the passage.

13. The medical dressing of claim 12 wherein the closure member is attached to the valve body by a living hinge.

14. The medical dressing of claim 13 also including a second closure member attached to the valve body by a second living hinge, the living hinges being located adjacent each other and between the closure members, and both the closure member and the second closure member being selectively openable to allow fluid to flow through the passage.

15. The medical dressing of claim 12 wherein the valve body includes a circular portion that includes an exit opening defining a portion of the passage, and wherein the closure member is attached to the valve body so as to be rotatable about said circular portion,

between a position in which said exit opening is unobstructed by said closure member and a position in which a portion of said closure member covers and closes said exit opening.

16. The medical dressing of claim 12 wherein said closure member is carried on a stem mounted on said valve body, the stem being movable with respect to the valve body so as to carry the closure member between an upper, open, position and a lower, closed, position in which said closure member covers said portion of the valve body and excludes said foreign matter and prevents said fluid flow through the passage.

17. The medical dressing of claim 12 wherein said valve body includes a valve base and a valve top member attached to said valve base by mating helical threads on said valve base and in said valve top member.

18. The medical dressing of claim 17 wherein said valve body includes a locking ratchet resisting disassembly of said valve body.

19. A wound dressing, comprising:

(a) a flexible wound-covering sheet of material having an outer side and an inner side intended to face toward a person's skin;

(b) a layer of an adhesive material on the inner side;

(c) indicia on said wound dressing, said indicia being visible through use of night vision equipment when viewing said outer side with said wound dressing illuminated by light energy having a wavelength outside a humanly visible light spectrum; and

(d) a layer of masking material covering said indicia, said layer of masking material being opaque to humanly visible light but transmissive of said light energy having a wavelength outside said humanly visible light spectrum.

20. The wound dressing of claim 19 wherein said indicia include an area of a reflector material that is reflective of near infrared light detectable by the night vision equipment.

21. The wound dressing of claim 20 wherein said reflector material includes retroreflective material.

22. The wound dressing of claim 19 wherein said indicia are affixed to said outer side of said wound-covering sheet.

23. The wound dressing of claim 19 wherein said indicia are carried on said flexible wound-covering sheet of material.

24. The wound dressing of claim 19 wherein said indicia are distributed over substantially all of said sheet of material, thereby disclosing a shape of said dressing.

25. The wound dressing of claim 19 wherein said indicia include an area of a photoluminescent material that is excitable by light that is not humanly visible, and wherein in response to excitation said photoluminescent material emits light detectable by the night vision equipment.

26. The wound dressing of claim 25 wherein said indicia include an area of a photoluminescent material that is excitable by light having a frequency spectrum not detectable by the night vision equipment.

27. The wound dressing of claim 26 further including a handling tab attached to said flexible sheet of material wherein said photoluminescent material is present on said handling tab.

28. The wound dressing of claim 25 wherein said photoluminescent material is present on a handling tab attached to said flexible sheet of material.

29. The wound dressing of claim 19, further including a handling tab attached to said flexible sheet of material, and wherein some of said indicia are located on said handling tab.

30. The wound dressing of claim 19 in the form of a chest seal dressing including a valve assembly carried on said flexible sheet of material.

31. The wound dressing of claim 29 wherein at least a portion of said indicia are located on said valve assembly.

32. The wound dressing of claim 18 wherein said indicia include an area of a photoluminescent material that emits light that is outside a spectrum of humanly visible light, but that has a frequency detectable by the night vision equipment.

33. A medical article for use by a medical care provider in providing medical care during darkness, comprising:

(a) a main member;

(b) night vision indicia carried on said main member and visible using night vision equipment when said indicia are illuminated by light having a wavelength that is invisible to an unaided human eye; and

(c) a masking material covering said indicia and preventing humanly visible light from being transmitted from said indicia to an unaided human eye.

34. The medical article of claim 33 wherein said masking material is visible in daylight to an unaided human eye.

35. The medical article of claim 33, wherein the medical article comprises an orthopedic splint.

36. The medical article of claim 35 wherein said indicia are provided as a stripe extending along a margin of said orthopedic splint.

37. The medical article of claim 33 wherein said medical article is a tourniquet.

38. The medical article of claim 37 wherein said tourniquet includes a main strap and said indicia include a stripe extending along said main strap.

39. The medical article of claim 37 wherein said tourniquet includes a winding rod and at least some of said indicia are located on said winding rod.

40. The medical article of claim 37 wherein said tourniquet includes a buckle and at least some of said indicia are located on said buckle.

41. The medical article of claim 33 wherein said medical article is a pelvic sling.

42. The medical article of claim 41 wherein said pelvic sling includes a belt-like main body and at least a part of said indicia are located on said main body.

43. The medical article of claim 41 wherein said pelvic sling includes a strap extending from an end of said belt-like main body and wherein at least a part of said indicia are located on said strap.

44. The medical article of claim 41 wherein said pelvic sling includes a buckle interconnecting a strap with a belt-like main body and wherein at least a part of said indicia are located on said buckle.

45. The medical article of claim 33, wherein said medical article is a surgical glove, and wherein at least some of said indicia are located on a finger of said glove.

46. The medical article of claim 33 wherein said medical article comprises gauze and said indicia are incorporated into said gauze.

47. The medical article of claim 33 wherein said medical article is a tape having a length and a width and an adhesive carried on a surface thereof and wherein said indicia are located at least at intervals along said tape.

48. The medical article of claim 47 wherein said indicia extend longitudinally along said tape.

49. A wound dressing comprising:

(a) a flexible panel of sheet material having an inner side and an outer side and a pair of opposite ends;

(b) a layer of a flexible adhesive material on the inner side;

(c) a respective handling tab of flexible sheet material attached to said inner side by said adhesive at each of said opposite ends of said flexible panel; and

(d) a peelable protective backing sheet covering said adhesive material, a portion of said backing sheet overlapping one of said handling tabs, as an area of said backing sheet to be grasped to peel said backing sheet away from said adhesive material.