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(54) Title: PRIMER FOR INTRAVENOUS CATHETER SYSTEMS

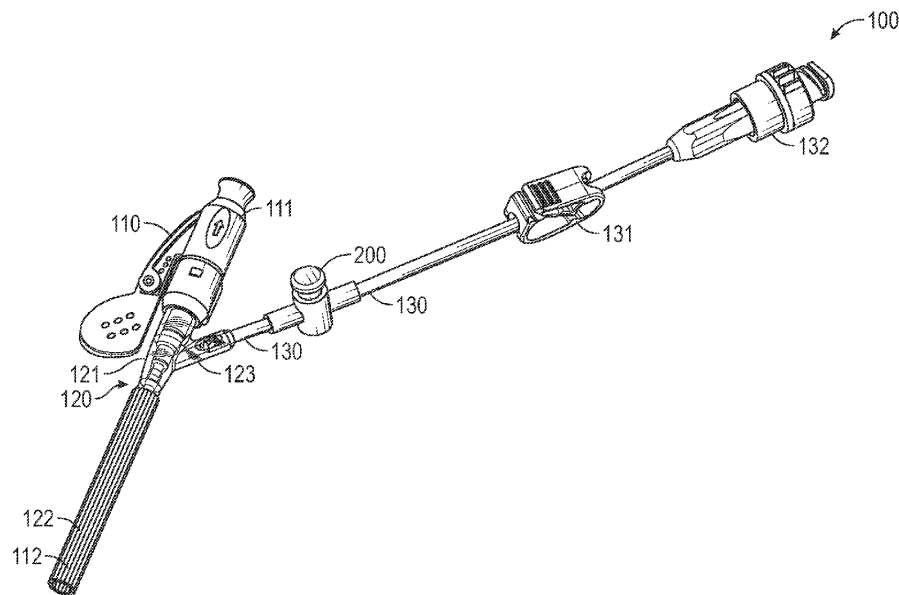


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A primer may be used with IV catheter systems. The primer may be positioned along the tubing of an extension set such that the primer divides the IV catheter system into a downstream portion and an upstream portion. The primer may vent air from both the upstream and downstream portions to allow blood to flow up to the primer while also allowing priming solution to flow down to the primer. As a result, the catheter may be inserted into the patient's vasculature without first priming the catheter. Once the air has been vented from the upstream and downstream portions of the IV catheter system, the primer may be actuated to open a fluid pathway through the primer. With the fluid pathway opened, the priming solution may commence flowing towards the patient's vasculature thereby flushing the blood from the IV catheter system.

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