

SINGLE-USE DISPOSABLE SET CONNECTOR

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims priority to United States Provisional Patent Application No. 61/925,940, filed January 10, 2014, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

Field

[0002] This disclosure relates, in general, to the field of single-use disposable set connectors, and, more particularly, to single-use disposable set connectors configured for delivering fluid to a patient.

Description of the Related Art

[0003] In many medical diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, a medical practitioner, such as a physician, injects a patient with one or more medical fluids. In recent years, a number of medical fluid delivery systems for pressurized injection of fluids, such as a contrast solution (often referred to simply as “contrast”), a flushing agent, such as saline, and other medical fluids, have been developed for use in procedures such as angiography, computed tomography (CT), ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomography (PET), and other molecular imaging procedures. In general, these medical fluid delivery systems are designed to deliver a preset amount of fluid at a preset flow rate.

[0004] In some injection procedures, the medical practitioner places a catheter or needle into a vein or artery of the patient. The catheter or needle is connected to either a manual or an automatic fluid injector system by way of tubing and a connector that interfaces with the fluid injector system. Automatic fluid injector systems typically include at least one syringe connected to at least one fluid injector having, for example, a powered linear piston. The at least one syringe includes, for example, a source of contrast and/or a source of flushing fluid. The medical practitioner enters settings into an electronic control system of the fluid injector for a fixed volume of contrast and/or saline and a fixed rate of injection for each. A single-use disposable set connector and associated tubing is connected to the fluid injector system for delivering one or more fluids to the patient.

[0005] While various manual and automatic fluid delivery systems are known in the medical field, improved multi-fluid delivery systems adapted for use in medical diagnostic and therapeutic procedures where one or more fluids are supplied to a patient during such procedures continue to be in demand. Additionally, improved single-use disposable set

connectors that may be used with multi-fluid delivery systems for facilitating a delivery of one or more fluids to a patient are also desired in the medical field. The medical field continues to demand improved medical devices and systems used to supply fluids to patients during various medical procedures.

SUMMARY

[0006] In view of the foregoing, a need exists for a medical connector assembly for connecting a single-use portion of a medical assembly to a multi-use portion of the assembly. Further, there is a need for a fluid delivery system for delivery of multiple fluid doses to multiple patients using one or more multi-dose containers. The assembly should be configured to retain sterility of the fluid path through the single-use and multi-use portions of the assembly and, particularly, should maintain sterility of portions of the assembly which are reusable. Furthermore, the system should be arranged to permit automatic priming, defined as removing air from the fluid line, for easier fluid injections.

[0007] Therefore, a medical connector configured to address some or all of these needs is provided herein. In accordance with one embodiment, a medical connector may include a fluid inlet port configured for removable engagement with a connection port of a multi-use disposable set (MUDS) to establish a fluid connection therewith. The medical connector may further include a waste outlet port configured for removable engagement with a waste inlet port of the MUDS to establish a fluid connection therewith. A patient fluid line may be connected, at a first end, to the fluid inlet port and may be connected, at a second end, to the waste outlet port. Fluid flow through the patient fluid line may be unidirectional from the first end to the second end. The patient fluid line may be configured for being reversibly disconnected from the waste outlet port for delivering fluid to a patient.

[0008] In accordance with another embodiment, the medical connector may have a locking mechanism for removably securing the medical connector to the MUDS. The locking mechanism may have a flexible tab that is deflectable between an engaged position and a disengaged position by deflecting at least a portion of the flexible tab. The flexible tab may have a pressing surface that, when pressed, deflects the flexible tab from the engaged position to the disengaged position. In some embodiments, the fluid inlet port may have a shroud surrounding at least a portion of the fluid inlet port. The shroud may have at least one indentation to facilitate handling of the medical connector. The shroud may have one or more ribs protruding from an outer surface of the shroud. The fluid inlet port may be shaped to prevent connection with the waste inlet port of the MUDS and wherein the waste outlet port

is shaped to prevent connection with the connection port of the MUDS. The medical connector may have an asymmetrical shape such that the medical connector is connectable with the MUDS in one orientation only. At least one fin may be provided to prevent erroneous connection of the medical connector with the MUDS. In some embodiments, the second end of the patient fluid line may have a connector configured for removable engagement with the waste outlet port while maintaining sterility of the second end. The connector may be in fluid communication with the waste outlet port. The connector may be a luer-lock connector. A one-way valve may be configured for maintaining unidirectional flow through the fluid inlet port into the patient fluid line. In some embodiments, at least one sensor element may be configured for interacting with at least one sensor configured for detecting a presence or absence of the at least one sensor element indicating that the medical connector has been properly inserted or installed. The at least one sensor element has one or more reflective surfaces for reflecting visible or infrared light to the at least one sensor. The fluid inlet port has at least one seal for sealing the fluid inlet port.

[0009] In accordance with another embodiment, a single-use disposable set connector may have a fluid inlet port configured for removable engagement with a connection port of a MUDS to establish a fluid connection therewith and a waste outlet port configured for removable engagement with a waste inlet port of the MUDS to establish a fluid connection therewith. A spacer may be provided to separate the fluid inlet port from the fluid outlet port. A locking mechanism may be configured for removably securing the connector to the MUDS. The locking mechanism may have a flexible tab that is deflectable between an engaged position and a disengaged position by deflecting at least a portion of the flexible tab. A patient fluid line may be connected, at a first end, to the fluid inlet port. A connector may be connected to a second end of the patient fluid line. Fluid flow through the patient fluid line may be unidirectional from the first end to the second end. The connector may be configured for removable fluid connection with the waste outlet port for delivering fluid to a patient.

[0010] In accordance with another embodiment, a method of delivering fluid using a single-use disposable set connector may include fluidly connecting a fluid inlet port of the single-use disposable set connector with a connection port of a multi-use disposable set (MUDS) and establishing a fluid communication between a waste outlet port of the single-use disposable set connector and a waste inlet port of the MUDS. The method may further include priming the single-use disposable set connector by delivering fluid from the fluid

inlet port to the waste outlet port through a fluid line and disconnecting the fluid line from the waste outlet port. The method may further include delivering fluid from the fluid inlet port to a connector through the fluid line. In some embodiments, the method may include locking the single-use disposable set connector to the MUDS prior to priming the single-use disposable set connector.

[0011] These and other features and characteristics of single-use disposable set connectors, as well as the methods of operation and functions of the related elements of structures and the combination of parts and economies of manufacture, will become more apparent upon consideration of the following description and the appended claims with reference to the accompanying drawings, all of which form a part of this specification, wherein like reference numerals designate corresponding parts in the various figures. It is to be expressly understood, however, that the drawings are for the purpose of illustration and description only, and are not intended as a definition of the limits of the disclosure. As used in the specification and the claims, the singular form of “a”, “an”, and “the” include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] **FIG. 1** is a perspective view of a multi-fluid delivery system, according to one embodiment;

[0013] **FIG. 2** is schematic view of various fluid paths within the multi-fluid delivery system of **FIG. 1**;

[0014] **FIG. 3A** is a perspective view of a connection interface prior to connecting a single-use disposable set connector with a multi-fluid delivery system;

[0015] **FIG. 3B** is a perspective view of the connection interface of **FIG. 3A** showing the single-use disposable set connector connected with the multi-fluid delivery system;

[0016] **FIG. 4A** is a perspective view of a single-use disposable set connector in accordance with one embodiment;

[0017] **FIG. 4B** is a cross-sectional view of the single-use disposable set connector shown in **FIG. 4A**;

[0018] **FIG. 4C** is a cross-sectional view of the single-use disposable set connector shown in **FIG. 9A** connected to a port of a multi-fluid delivery system;

[0019] **FIG. 5A** is a perspective view of the single-use disposable set connector shown in **FIG. 4C** with a portion of the multi-fluid delivery system and the MUDS cut away;

[0020] **FIG. 5B** is a detailed perspective view of a sensor rib of the single-use disposable set connector shown in **FIG. 5A**;

[0021] **FIG. 6** is a perspective view of a single-use disposable set connector in accordance with another embodiment;

[0022] **FIG. 7A** is an enlarged cross-sectional view of the single-use disposable set connector shown in **FIG. 6**, taken along line **A-A**;

[0023] **FIG. 7B** is an enlarged cross-sectional view of the single-use disposable set connector shown in **FIG. 6**, taken along line **B-B**;

[0024] **FIGS. 8A-8F** are perspective views of various stages of connecting a single-use disposable set connector to a MUDS connector;

[0025] **FIG. 9** is a perspective view of a single-use disposable set connector in accordance with another embodiment;

[0026] **FIG. 10A** is a perspective view of a port of a MUDS connector in accordance with one embodiment;

[0027] **FIG. 10B** is a schematic drawing of a cross-sectional view of the MUDS connector of **FIG. 10A**;

[0028] **FIG. 10C** is a schematic drawing of a MUDS connector having an absorbent pad attached thereto, according to another embodiment;

[0029] **FIG. 11A** is a perspective view of a single-use disposable set connector in accordance with another embodiment;

[0030] **FIG. 11B** is a perspective view of a MUDS connector in accordance with another embodiment;

[0031] **FIG. 11C** is a cross-sectional view of a medical connector assembly, with the single-use disposable set connector of **FIG. 11A** inserted to the MUDS connector of **FIG. 11B**;

[0032] **FIG. 12** is a front perspective view of a single-use disposable set connector in accordance with another embodiment;

[0033] **FIG. 13A** is a perspective view of a single-use disposable set connector in accordance with another embodiment;

[0034] **FIG. 13B** is a cross-sectional view of a medical connection assembly including the single-use disposable set connector of **FIG. 13A**;

[0035] **FIG. 14A** is a perspective view of a single-use disposable set connector in accordance with another embodiment;

[0036] **FIG. 14B** is a perspective view of a single-use disposable set connector in accordance with another embodiment;

[0037] **FIG. 15A** is a perspective view of a single-use disposable set connector in accordance with another embodiment;

[0038] **FIG. 15B** is a perspective view of a single-use disposable set connector in accordance with another embodiment;

[0039] **FIG. 16A** is a side view of an external clip of the single-use disposable set connector of **FIG. 15A**;

[0040] **FIG. 16B** is a perspective view of a single-use connector of a medical connector assembly, according to another embodiment; and

[0041] **FIG. 17** is a schematic view of an electronic control system of a multi-fluid fluid injection system in accordance with another embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0042] For purposes of the description hereinafter, the terms “upper”, “lower”, “right”, “left”, “vertical”, “horizontal”, “top”, “bottom”, “lateral”, “longitudinal”, and derivatives thereof shall relate to the disclosure as it is oriented in the drawing figures. When used in relation to a syringe of a MUDS, the term “proximal” refers to a portion of a syringe nearest a piston element for delivering fluid from a syringe. When used in relation to a single-use disposable set connector, the term “distal” refers to a portion of a single-use disposable set SUDS connector nearest to a user when a single-use disposable set connector is oriented for connecting with a multi-fluid injector system. When used in relation to a syringe of a MUDS, the term “distal” refers to a portion of a syringe nearest to a delivery nozzle. When used in relation to a single-use disposable set connector, the term “proximal” refers to a portion of a single-use disposable set connector nearest to a multi-fluid injector system when a single-use disposable set connector is oriented for connecting with a multi-fluid injector system. It is also to be understood that the specific devices and processes illustrated in the attached drawings, and described in the following specification, are simply exemplary embodiments of the disclosure. Hence, specific dimensions and other physical characteristics related to the embodiments disclosed herein are not to be considered as limiting.

[0043] Referring to the drawings in which like reference characters refer to like parts throughout the several views thereof, the present disclosure is generally directed to a multi-fluid medical injector/injection system **100** (hereinafter “fluid injector system **100**”) having a multi-patient disposable set (MUDS) **130** configured for delivering fluid to a patient using a

single-use disposable set (SUDS) connector. The fluid injector system **100** includes multiple components as individually described herein. Generally, the fluid injector system **100** has a powered injector administrator or device and a fluid delivery set intended to be associated with the injector to deliver one or more fluids from one or more multi-dose containers under pressure into a patient, as described herein. The various devices, components, and features of the fluid injector system **100** and the fluid delivery set associated therewith are likewise described in detail herein.

[0044] With reference to **FIG. 1**, the fluid injector system **100** includes an injector housing **102** having opposed lateral sides **104**, a distal or upper end **106**, and a proximal or lower end **108**. In some embodiments, the housing **102** may be supported on a base **110** having one or more wheels **112** for rotatable and movable support of the housing **102** on a floor surface. The one or more wheels **112** may be lockable to prevent the housing **102** from inadvertently moving once positioned at a desired location. At least one handle **114** may be provided to facilitate moving and positioning the fluid injector system **100**. In other embodiments, the housing **102** may be removably or non-removably secured to a fixed surface, such as a floor, ceiling, wall, or other structure. The housing **102** encloses the various mechanical drive components, electrical and power components necessary to drive the mechanical drive components, and control components, such as electronic memory and electronic control devices (hereinafter electronic control device(s)), used to control operation of reciprocally movable piston elements **103** (shown in **FIG. 2**) associated with the fluid injector system **100** described herein. Such piston elements **103** may be reciprocally operable via electro-mechanical drive components such as a ball screw shaft driven by a motor, a voice coil actuator, a rack-and-pinion gear drive, a linear motor, and the like. In some embodiments, at least some of the mechanical drive components, electrical and power components, and control components may be provided on the base **110**.

[0045] With continued reference to **FIG. 1**, the fluid injector system **100** has at least one door **116** that encloses at least some of the MUDS, the mechanical drive components, electrical and power components, and control components. The door **116** is desirably movable between an open position and a closed position (shown in **FIG. 1**). In some embodiments, the door **116** may be lockable.

[0046] The fluid injector system **100** further includes at least one bulk fluid connector **118** for connection with at least one bulk fluid source **120**. In some embodiments, a plurality of bulk fluid connectors **118** may be provided. For example, as shown in **FIG. 1**, three bulk

fluid connectors **118** may be provided in a side-by-side or other arrangement. In some embodiments, the at least one bulk fluid connector **118** may be a spike configured for removably connecting to the at least one bulk fluid source **120**, such as a vial, a bottle, or a bag. The at least one bulk fluid connector **118** may have a reusable or non-reusable interface with each new bulk fluid source **120**. The at least one bulk fluid connector **118** may be formed on the multi-patient disposable set, as described herein. The at least one bulk fluid source **120** may be configured for receiving a medical fluid, such as saline, contrast solution, or other medical fluid, for delivery to the fluid injector system **100**. The housing **102** may have at least one support member **122** for supporting the at least one bulk fluid source **120** once it is connected to the fluid injector system **100**.

[0047] With continued reference to **FIG. 1**, the fluid injector system **100** includes one or more user interfaces **124**, such as a graphical user interface (GUI) display window. The user interface **124** may display information pertinent to a fluid injection procedure involving fluid injector system **100**, such as current flow rate, fluid pressure, and volume remaining in the at least one bulk fluid source **120** connected to the fluid injector system **100** and may be a touch screen GUI that allows an operator to input commands and/or data for operation of fluid injector system **100**. While the user interface **124** is shown on the injector housing **102**, such user interface **124** may also in the form of a remote display that is wired or wirelessly linked to the housing **102** and control and mechanical elements of fluid injector system **100**. In some embodiments, the user interface **124** may be a tablet computer that is detachably connected to the housing **102** and is in wired or wirelessly linked communication with the housing **102**. Additionally, the fluid injector system **100** and/or user interface **124** may include at least one control button **126** for tactile operation by an attendant operator of the fluid injector system **100**. In certain embodiments, the at least one control button may be part of a keyboard for inputting commands and/or data by the operator. The at least one control button **126** may be hard-wired to the electronic control device(s) associated with the fluid injector system **100** to provide direct input to the electronic control device(s). The at least one control button **126** may also be graphically part of the user interface **124**, such as a touch screen. In either arrangement, the at least one control button **126** desirably provides certain individual control features to the attendant operator of the fluid injector system **100**, such as but not limited to: (1) acknowledging that a multi-patient disposable set has been loaded or unloaded; (2) locking/unlocking of the multi-patient disposable set; (3) filling/purging of the fluid injector system **100**; (4) inputting information and/or data related to the patient and/or

injection procedure, and (5) initiating/stopping an injection procedure. The user interface **124** and/or any electronic processing units associated with the fluid injector system **100** may be wired or wirelessly connected to an operation and/or data storage system such as a hospital network system.

[0048] With reference to **FIG. 2**, the fluid injector system **100** includes a MUDS **130** that is removably connected to the fluid injector system **100** for delivering one or more fluids from the one or more bulk fluid sources **120** to the patient. The MUDS **130** may include one or more syringes or pumps **132**. In some embodiments, the number of syringes **132** may correspond to the number of bulk fluid sources **120**. For example, with reference to **FIG. 2**, the MUDS **130** has three syringes **132** in a side-by-side arrangement such that each syringe **132** is fluidly connectable to one or more of the bulk fluid sources **120**. In some embodiments, one or two bulk fluid sources **120** may be connected to one or more syringes **132** of the MUDS **130**. Each syringe **132** may be fluidly connectable to one of the bulk fluid sources **120** by a corresponding bulk fluid connector **118** and an associated MUDS fluid path **134**. The MUDS fluid path **134** may have a spike element that connects to the bulk fluid connector **118**. In some embodiments, the bulk fluid connector **118** may be provided directly on the MUDS **130**.

[0049] With further reference to **FIG. 2**, the MUDS **130** is removably connectable to the housing **102** of the fluid injector system **100**. As will be appreciated by one having ordinary skill in the art, it may be desirable to construct at least a portion of the MUDS **130** from a clear medical grade plastic in order to facilitate visual verification that a fluid connection has been established with the fluid injector system **100**. Visual verification is also desirable for confirming that no air bubbles are present within various fluid connections. Alternatively, at least a portion of the MUDS **130** and/or door **116** may include windows (not shown) for visualization of the connection between various components. Various optical sensors (not shown) may also be provided to detect and verify the connections. Additionally, various lighting elements (not shown), such as light emitting diodes (LEDs), may be provided to actuate one or more optical sensors and indicate that a suitable connection has been established between the various components.

[0050] With specific reference to **FIG. 2**, a schematic view of various fluid paths of the fluid injector system **100** is provided. The MUDS **130** may include one or more valves **136**, such as stopcock valves, for controlling which medical fluid or combinations of medical fluids are withdrawn from the multi-dose bulk fluid source **120** and/or are delivered to a

patient through each syringe **132**. In some embodiments, the one or more valves **136** may be provided on the distal end **140** of the plurality of syringes **132** or on the manifold **148**. The manifold **148** may in fluid communication via valves **136** and/or syringes **132** with a first end of the MUDS fluid path **134** that connects each syringe **132** to the corresponding bulk fluid source **120**. The opposing second end of the MUDS fluid path **134** may be connected to the respective bulk fluid connector **118** that is configured for fluidly connecting with the bulk fluid source **120**. Depending on the position of the one or more valves **136**, fluid may be drawn into the one or more syringes **132**, or it may be delivered from the one or more syringes **132**. In a first position, such as during the filling of the syringes **132**, the one or more valves **136** are oriented such that fluid flows from the bulk fluid source **120** into the desired syringe **132** through a fluid inlet line **150**, such as MUDS fluid path. During the filling procedure, the one or more valves **136** are positioned such that fluid flow through one or more fluid outlet lines **152** or manifold **148** is blocked. In a second position, such as during a fluid delivery procedure, fluid from one or more syringes **132** is delivered to the manifold **148** through the one or more fluid outlet lines **152** or syringe valve outlet ports. During the delivery procedure, the one or more valves **136** are positioned such that fluid flow through one or more fluid inlet lines **150** is blocked. The one or more valves **136**, fluid inlet lines **150**, and/or fluid outlet lines **152** may be integrated into the manifold **148**. The one or more valves **136** may be selectively positioned to the first or second position by manual or automatic handling. For example, the operator may position the one or more valves **136** into the desired position for filling or fluid delivery. In other embodiments, at least a portion of the fluid injector system **100** is operable for automatically positioning the one or more valves **136** into a desired position for filling or fluid delivery based on input by the operator, as described herein.

[0051] With continued reference to **FIG. 2**, in some embodiments, the fluid outlet line **152** may also be connected to a waste reservoir **156** on the fluid injector system **100**. The waste reservoir **156** is desirably separate from the syringes **132** to prevent contamination. In some embodiments, the waste reservoir **156** is configured to receive waste fluid expelled from the syringes **132** during, for example, a priming operation. The waste reservoir **156** may be removable from the housing **102** in order to dispose of the contents of the waste reservoir **156**. In other embodiments, the waste reservoir **156** may have a draining port (not shown) for emptying the contents of the waste reservoir **156** without removing the waste reservoir **156**.

from the housing **102**. In some embodiments, the waste reservoir **156** is provided as a separate component from the MUDS **130**.

[0052] Having generally described the components of the fluid injector system **100** and the MUDS **130**, the structure and method of use of a single-use disposable set **190** (SUDS) and its interaction with MUDS **130** will now be described.

[0053] With reference to **FIGS. 3A** and **3B**, the fluid injector system **100** has a connection port **192** that is configured to form a releasable fluid connection with at least a portion of the SUDS **190**. In some embodiments, the connection port **192** may be formed on the MUDS **130**. The connection port **192** may be shielded by at least a portion of the housing **102** of the fluid injector system **100**. For example, recessing the connection port **192** within the interior of the housing **102** may preserve the sterility of the connection port **192** by preventing or limiting a user or patient from touching and contaminating the portions of the connection port **192** that contact the fluid to be injected to the patient. In some embodiments, the connection port **192** is recessed within an opening **194** formed on the housing **102** of the fluid injector system **100**, or the connection port **192** may have a shielding structure (not shown) that surrounds at least a portion of the connection port **192**. In other embodiments, the connection port **192** may be formed directly on the housing **102** and connected to the MUDS **130** by a fluid path (not shown). As described herein, the SUDS **190** may be connected to the connection port **192**, formed on at least a portion of the MUDS **130** and/or the housing **102**. Desirably, the connection between the SUDS **190** and the connection port **192** is a releasable connection to allow the SUDS **190** to be selectively disconnected from the connection port **192** (**FIG. 3A**) and connected to the connection port **192** (**FIG. 3B**). In some embodiments, the SUDS **190** may be disconnected from the connection port **192** and disposed after each fluid delivery procedure and a new SUDS **190** may be connected to the connection port **192** for a subsequent fluid delivery procedure.

[0054] With continued reference to **FIGS. 3A** and **3B**, a waste inlet port **196** may be provided separately from the connection port **192**. The waste inlet port **196** is in fluid communication with the waste reservoir **156**. In some embodiments, the waste reservoir **156** is provided separately from the SUDS **190** such that the fluid from the waste inlet port **196** can be delivered to the waste reservoir **156**. At least a portion of the SUDS **190** may be releasably connected to or associated with the waste inlet port **196** for introducing waste fluid into the waste reservoir **156** during, for example, a priming operation that expels air from the

SUDS **190**. The waste reservoir **156** may have a viewing window **198** with indicia **200**, such as graduated markings, that indicate the fill level of the waste reservoir **156**.

[0055] With reference to **FIG. 4A**, the SUDS **190** has a fluid inlet port **202** that is configured for releasable connection with the connection port **192** (shown in **FIG. 3A**). The fluid inlet port **202** receives fluid delivered from the fluid injector system **100**. The fluid inlet port **202** is desirably a hollow, tubular structure, as shown in **FIG. 4B**. The SUDS **190** further has a waste outlet port **204** that is configured for releasable connection or association with the waste inlet port **196** (shown in **FIG. 3A**). The waste outlet port **204** receives waste fluid and delivers such waste fluid to the waste reservoir **156** during, for example, a priming operation of the SUDS **190**. The waste outlet port **204** is desirably a hollow, tubular structure, as shown in **FIG. 4B**. The waste outlet port **204** may be connected to, inserted into, or located in the waste inlet port **202** so that the waste fluid may flow through the waste inlet port **202** and continue into waste reservoir **156**. The fluid inlet port **202** and the waste outlet port **204** may be spaced apart from each other by a spacer **206**. In some embodiments, the spacer **206** is dimensioned to position the fluid inlet port **202** and the waste outlet port **204** for alignment with the connection port **192** and the waste inlet port **196**, respectively. It is noted that the SUDS **190** is shown in **FIG. 4A** in a state after removal from packaging (not shown). Prior to use, the SUDS **190** is desirably packaged in a pre-sterilized, sealed package that protects the SUDS **190** from contamination with air or surface-borne contaminants. Alternatively, the sealed package and SUDS **190** may be sterilized after packaging.

[0056] The SUDS **190** desirably has an asymmetrical structure, so that the user can only attach the SUDS **190** to the MUDS **130** in one orientation. In this manner, the user is prevented from attaching the fluid inlet port **202** to the waste inlet port **196**. In some embodiments, a fin **207** may be provided on at least a portion of the SUDS **190** to prevent erroneous insertion of the SUDS **190** in the connection port **192**. In certain embodiments, the fin **207** may be formed on the spacer **206** proximate to the waste outlet port **204**. In this manner, the fin **207** may interfere with the incorrect insertion of the SUDS **190** into the connection port **192**. Structures and shapes other than fin **207** may be used to prevent erroneous insertion of the SUDS **190** into connection port **192**,

[0057] In some embodiments, tubing **208** may be connected at its proximal end **210** to the fluid inlet port **202**. The tubing **208** is configured to deliver fluid received from the fluid inlet port **202**. The distal end **212** of the tubing **208** may have a connector **214** that is configured for connection with the waste outlet port **204** or a fluid path connected to the patient (not

shown). The tubing **208** may be made from a flexible material, such as a medical grade plastic material, that allows the tubing **208** to be coiled. The connector **214** may be a luer-lock connector (either a male luer-lock connector or a female luer-lock connector depending on the desired application) or other medical connector configuration. In some embodiments, the connector **214** may have a one-way valve to prevent backflow of fluid. Alternatively, a one-way valve may be located elsewhere in the SUDS **190** between fluid inlet port **202** and connector **214**.

[0058] With continued reference to **FIG. 4A**, the SUDS **190** may have a locking tab **216** that is configured for selectively locking the SUDS **190** with the fluid injector system **100** depending on the engagement of the locking tab **216** with at least a portion of the fluid injector system **100**. In some embodiments, the locking tab **216** may be a flexible tab that is deflectable between an engaged position and a disengaged position by deflecting at least a portion of the locking tab **216**. The locking tab **216** may have a pressing surface **218** that, when pressed, causes the locking tab **216** to be deflected from the engaged position to the disengaged position for insertion and removal of the SUDS **190** from the fluid injector system **100**. In some embodiments, the locking tab **216** may be configured for releasable locking engagement with a receiving slot **217** on the MUDS **130** (shown in **FIG. 4C**).

[0059] With reference to **FIG. 4B**, the SUDS **190** may have a first annular skirt **224** extending circumferentially around a proximal end **226** of the fluid inlet port **202** and a second annular skirt **220** extending circumferentially around a distal end **222** of the fluid inlet port **202**. The first and second annular skirts **224**, **220** surround the fluid inlet port **202** to prevent inadvertent contact and contamination. The first annular skirt **224** may have one or more recesses **228** (shown in **FIG. 4A**) extending through a sidewall thereof. The one or more recesses **228** may provide a locking interface with a corresponding locking element (not shown) on the fluid injector system **100**. The second annular skirt **220** may have at least one indentation **230** (shown in **FIG. 4A**) to facilitate grasping and handling of the SUDS **190**. In some embodiments, the second annular skirt **220** may have a textured surface having one or more ribs **232** (shown in **FIG. 9A**) to facilitate gripping and handling of the SUDS **190**.

[0060] With continued reference to **FIG. 4B**, at least one annular seal **234** may be provided around the proximal end **226** of the fluid inlet port **202**. The at least one annular seal **234** may seal the fluid inlet port **202** to prevent fluid from leaking through the SUDS **190**. The at least one annular seal **234** may provide a fluid seal between the SUDS **190** and the MUDS **130** when they are fluidly connected with one another to allow fluid to flow from the MUDS

130 to the SUDS **190** without leaking. A one-way valve **236** may be provided within a lumen of the fluid inlet port **202** to prevent fluid from flowing in a reverse direction from the SUDS **190** into the MUDS **130**.

[0061] With reference to **FIG. 4C**, the SUDS **190** shown in **FIG. 4A** is shown connected to the fluid injector system **100**. While **FIG. 4C** illustrates the connection port **192** formed on the MUDS **130**, in other embodiments, the connection port **192** may be formed on a portion of the housing **102** (shown in **FIG. 1**). The fluid inlet port **202** of the SUDS **190** is connected to the connection port **192** to establish a fluid path in a direction of arrow **F** shown in **FIG. 4C**. Fluid passing through the fluid inlet port **202** flows through the one-way valve **236** and into tubing **208**. Any fluid that may drip from the interface between the fluid inlet port **202** and the connection port **192** is collected in the waste reservoir **156**. The waste reservoir **156** may be shaped to collect any fluid that may drip from the SUDS **190** when it is removed from the MUDS **130**. Additionally, when the SUDS **190** is connected to the connection port **192**, the outlet of the waste outlet port **204** is positioned within the waste inlet port **196** such that waste fluid from the tubing **208** may be discharged into the waste reservoir **156**. The spacer **206** may define an insertion stop surface to define the depth of insertion of the SUDS **190** into the connection port **192**.

[0062] With reference to **FIG. 5A**, the fluid injector system **100** may have a sensor system **238** adapted to identify when the SUDS **190** is in fluid communication with the MUDS **130**. The sensor system **238** may include at least one sensing element, such as a sensor fin **240**, on the SUDS **190** and a corresponding sensor **242** on the fluid injector system **100** or MUDS **130**. The sensor **242** may be configured to detect the presence and absence of the at least one sensor fin **240**, or other sensing element. In some embodiments, the sensing element, such as the at least one sensor fin **240** is formed on the locking tab **216** of the SUDS **190**, such as shown in **FIG. 4A**. In other embodiments, the sensing element, such as the at least one sensor fin **240** may be formed on any portion of the SUDS **190**. The sensor **242** may be an optical sensor that is seated and secured within a respective mount formed on the housing **102** of the fluid injector system **100**. As will be appreciated by those versed in the field of powered medical fluid injectors, the sensor **242** may be electronically coupled to an electronic control device used to discretely control operation of the fluid injector system, such as the operation of the one or more piston elements, based, at least in part, on input from the sensor **242**. The sensing element, such as the sensor fin **240** may have one or more reflective surfaces that reflect visible or infrared light to be detected by the sensor **242**. In other

embodiments, mechanical interaction between the sensing element and the sensor **242** may be used.

[0063] In some embodiments, the SUDS **190** may further include reuse prevention features (not shown). For example, the SUDS **190** may include one or more breakable sensor elements, tabs, or structures that fold or break when the SUDS **190** is removed from the MUDS **130**. Absence of these features may prevent reinsertion and reuse of the SUDS **190** after removal. In this manner, it can be assured that the SUDS **190** is only used for one fluid delivery procedure.

[0064] Having generally described the components of the fluid injector system **100**, the MUDS **130**, and the SUDS **190**, a method of operation of using the SUDS **190** will now be described in detail. In use, a medical technician or user removes the disposable SUDS **190** from its packaging (not shown) and inserts the fluid inlet port **202** into the connection port **192** on the MUDS **130**. As described above, the SUDS **190** must be inserted in the correct orientation, such that the fluid inlet port **202** is aligned for connection with the connection port **192**, and the waste outlet port **204** is aligned for connection with the waste inlet port **196**. The SUDS **190** may be secured to the MUDS **130** by inserting the locking tab **216** into the receiving slot **217** on the MUDS **130**. Once the SUDS **190** is securely connected to the MUDS **130**, for example as sensed by the sensor **242**, the fluid injector system **100** (shown in **FIG. 1**) draws fluid into one or more of the plurality of syringes **132** of the MUDS **130** and performs an automatic priming operation for removing air from the MUDS **130** and the SUDS **190**. During such priming operation, fluid from the MUDS **130** is injected through the connection port **192** and into the tubing **208** of the SUDS **190**. The fluid flows through the tubing **208** and through the waste outlet port **204** and into the waste reservoir **156**. Once the automatic priming operation is completed, the medical technician disconnects the connector **214** from the waste outlet port **204**. The connector **214** may then be connected to the patient through a catheter, vascular access device, needle, or additional fluid path set to facilitate fluid delivery to the patient. Once the fluid delivery is completed, the SUDS **190** is disconnected from the patient and the MUDS **130** by disengaging the locking tab **216** of the SUDS **190** from the receiving slot **217** on the MUDS **130**. The medical technician may then dispose of the SUDS **190**. In certain embodiments, removing the SUDS **190** from the MUDS **130** causes reuse prevention features (not shown) to activate, thereby preventing reinsertion and reuse of the SUDS **190**.

[0065] With reference to **FIG. 6**, a connection interface between the SUDS **190** and the MUDS **130** is shown in accordance with another embodiment. The MUDS **130** has a connection port **192** that may be configured as a hollow, tubular structure having a luer lock connector **24** (either a male luer lock connector or a female luer lock connector depending on the desired application), extending from a distal end of the port **192** into an interior of the port **192**. Accordingly, the proximal opening of the luer lock connector **24** is recessed within the interior of the port **192**. The luer lock connector **24** may include screw threads **30** (shown in **FIG. 7B**) for securing the MUDS **130** to the SUDS **190**. For example, the screw threads **30** may be positioned on an outer shroud **32** surrounding the luer lock connector **24**, as shown in **FIGS. 7A and 7B**. Screw threads **30** may also be positioned on the luer lock connector **24** itself. The luer lock connector **24** defines a fluid passageway **34** (shown in **FIG. 7B**) extending therethrough, from the proximal end of the connection port **192** to the distal opening thereof. While the connection port **192** is depicted as including a luer lock connector **24**, other styles of connectors, including, but not limited to, clip-in connectors, bayonet connectors, press fit connectors, and the like, may be used within the scope of the present disclosure. Additionally, in certain embodiments, the connector **24** for the connection port **192** is desirably a non-standard connector (e.g. a connector with an unusual size or shape) so that connectors produced by third parties cannot be attached.

[0066] The MUDS **130** has a waste inlet port **196** (shown in **FIG. 6**) that may also be configured as a hollow, tubular structure. The waste inlet port **196** includes a tapered distal nozzle **36** attached to a fluid conduit, such as flexible tubing **208**, formed from a medical grade polymer, that connects the waste inlet port **196** to the waste reservoir **156** (shown in **FIG. 2**).

[0067] With reference again to **FIG. 6**, as described in detail herein, the MUDS **130** is adapted for connecting to the SUDS **190**, which is disposed of after a single use. It is noted that the SUDS **190** is shown in **FIG. 6** in a state after removal from packaging (not shown). Prior to use, the SUDS **190** is desirably packaged in a pre-sterilized, sealed package that protects the SUDS **190** from contamination with air or surface-borne contaminants.

[0068] The SUDS **190** may have two or more ports, corresponding to the connection port **192** and waste inlet port **196** of the MUDS **130**. For convenience, the ports of the SUDS **190** are equivalent to the fluid inlet port **202** and the waste outlet port **204** of the SUDS **190** described with reference to **FIGS. 4A-4B**. The ports **202, 204** may be provided in an enclosure **42** suitable for receipt within the housing **20** of the MUDS **130**, as shown in **FIG.**

7B. The enclosure **42** desirably has an asymmetrical structure, so that the user can only attach the SUDS **190** to the MUDS **130** in one orientation only. Thus, for example, the user is prevented from attaching the connection port **192** of the MUDS **130** to the SUDS **190** waste outlet port **204**. The ports **202**, **204** and enclosure **42** of the SUDS **190** may be made from a material suitable for medical applications, such as medical grade plastic. The tubing **208** of the SUDS **190** is connected between the proximal end of the fluid inlet port **202** and the end of the waste outlet port **204** through check valves. The tubing **208** may be provided in a wound or coiled configuration for easy packaging and maneuverability.

[0069] With reference to **FIGS. 7A** and **7B**, the SUDS **190** fluid inlet port **202** is a hollow, tubular structure configured for insertion in the connection port **192** of the MUDS **130**. The SUDS **190** fluid inlet port **202** includes a tubular conduit, such as a luer lock connector **44**, defining a fluid passageway **46** extending from a proximal end of the port **202**, located adjacent to the MUDS **130**, and the distal end of the port **204**, connected to the tubing **208**. The luer lock connector **44** is adapted to connect to the luer lock connector **24** of the MUDS **130**. When securely connected, the connection port **192** of the MUDS **130** is in fluid communication with the fluid inlet port **202** of the SUDS **190**. The luer lock connector **44** may include a thumbwheel **52** for securing the connection port **192** of the MUDS **130** to the SUDS **190** fluid inlet port **202**. The thumbwheel **52** may be integrally formed with the luer lock connector **44** or may be a separate structure fixedly connected to the luer lock connector **44** by conventional means. The thumbwheel **52** rotates the luer lock connector **44** causing tabs **54**, extending therefrom, to engage the corresponding screw threads **30** in the connection port **192**. The tubing **208** is connected to the fluid inlet port **202** through an opening **56** on the thumbwheel **52**, such that a continuous fluid connection is established from the MUDS **130** to the tubing **208**.

[0070] With continued reference to **FIG. 7A** and **7B**, the SUDS **190** also includes the SUDS **190** waste outlet port **204**. The SUDS waste outlet port **204** has a fluid passageway **58**, defined by a tubular conduit **60**, extending between the waste inlet port **196** of the MUDS **130**, and the tubing **208**. The tubing **208** may not be directly connected to the waste inlet port **196** of the MUDS **130**. Instead, the tubular conduit **60** of the SUDS **190** may separate the tubing **208** from the MUDS **130**, thereby ensuring that the tubing **208** and the connector **214** are isolated from the waste inlet port **196** of the MUDS **130**. The tubular conduit **60** may be recessed from the waste inlet port **196** of the MUDS **130** by a portion of the single-use connector enclosure **42**, to reduce the likelihood of contamination. The tubular conduit **60**

may also be angled, relative to the horizontal, to facilitate fluid flow through the SUDS **190** waste outlet port **204** and into the waste inlet port **196** of the MUDS **130**. In some embodiments, the SUDS **190** may further include reuse prevention features (not shown). For example, the SUDS **190** may include breakable tabs or structures that fold or break when the SUDS **190** is removed from the MUDS **130**. In this manner, it can be assured that the SUDS **190** is only used for one fluid delivery procedure.

[0071] With reference to **FIGS. 8A-8F**, a method of operation of the embodiment of the connection assembly between the SUDS **190** and MUDS **130** depicted in **FIGS. 6-7B** will now be described in detail. In use, a medical technician or user removes the disposable SUDS **190** from its packaging and inserts the SUDS **190** into the corresponding MUDS **130**. As described above, the SUDS **190** must be inserted in the correct orientation, such that the connection port **192** of the MUDS **130** engages the SUDS **190** fluid inlet port **202**, and the waste inlet port **196** of the MUDS **130** engages the SUDS **190** waste outlet port **204**. As shown in **FIG. 8B**, the medical technician then rotates the thumbwheel **52** to secure the SUDS **190** to the MUDS **130**. Once the SUDS **190** is securely connected to the MUDS **130**, the fluid injector system **100** (shown in **FIG. 1**) draws fluid into one or more of the plurality of syringes **132** of the MUDS **130** and performs an automatic priming operation (**FIG. 8C**) for removing air from the MUDS **130** and the SUDS **190**. During such priming operation, fluid from the MUDS **130** is injected through the connection port **192** and into the tubing **208** of the SUDS **190**. The fluid flows through the tubing **208** and through the waste outlet port **204** and into the waste reservoir **156**. Once the automatic priming operation is completed, the medical technician disconnects the connector **214** from the waste outlet port **204** (**FIG. 8D**). The connector **214** may then be connected to the patient through a catheter, vascular access device, or additional fluid path set to facilitate fluid delivery to the patient (**FIG. 8E**). Once the fluid delivery is completed, the user disconnects the connector **214** rotates the thumbwheel **52** to remove the SUDS **190** from the MUDS **130** (**FIG. 8F**). The medical technician may then dispose of the SUDS **190**. In certain embodiments, removing the SUDS **190** from the MUDS **130** causes reuse prevention features (not shown), such as tabs extending from a portion of the SUDS **190**, to fold or break, preventing reinsertion of the SUDS **190**.

[0072] With reference to **FIG. 9**, a further embodiment of a connector assembly having a SUDS **190** and a MUDS **130** is illustrated. In this embodiment of the assembly, the SUDS **190** includes a cannula port **62** for receiving a needle cannula **129** connected to a connector

214. The cannula **129**, used for fluid delivery to a patient, can be inserted into the cannula port **62** after being removed from the patient. The cannula port **62** may cover a contaminated end of the cannula **129** during disposal of the cannula **129**. In this embodiment, the single-use enclosure **42** is desirably long enough so that the entire length of the needle cannula **129** may be inserted in the enclosure **42** for a safe disposal.

[0073] With reference to **FIGS. 10A** and **10B**, a further embodiment of a connector assembly having a SUDS **190** and a MUDS **130** is illustrated. The connector assembly is provided in a vertical orientation with the connection port **192** of the MUDS **130** positioned above the waste inlet port **196**. The MUDS **130** includes a drip channel **64** extending between the connection port **192** and waste inlet port **196**. Any fluid leaking from the connection port **192** is directed downward through the drip channel **64** by gravity. The drip channel **64** exits into the waste inlet port **196**. Accordingly, any fluid expelled from the drip channel **64** is directed through the waste inlet port **196** and is collected in the waste reservoir **156**. Alternatively, the MUDS **130** may be provided with an absorbent material, such as an absorbent pad **66** shown in **FIG. 10C**, surrounding a portion of the connection port **192** and the waste inlet port **196**. The absorbent material is provided to absorb any fluid drips during removal of the SUDS **190** for improved drip management.

[0074] With reference to **FIGS. 11A-11C**, a further embodiment of the connector assembly having a SUDS **190** and a MUDS **130** having a plurality of press-fit connectors is illustrated. As shown in **FIG. 11A**, the SUDS **190** includes a fluid inlet port **202** and waste outlet port **204**. The SUDS **190** includes disconnection tabs **68**, rather than a thumbwheel. The SUDS **190** also includes an alignment structure **70** extending from the enclosure **42** of the SUDS **190** and is configured for insertion in a corresponding slot **72** of the MUDS **130** (shown in **FIG. 11B**).

[0075] As shown in the cross-sectional view depicted in **FIG. 11C**, the SUDS **190** is inserted into and aligned with the MUDS **130** by alignment channels **71**. The disconnection tabs **68** are integrally formed with a tubular shroud **74** having an inwardly extending flange **76** at one end thereof. The shroud **74** surrounds a tubular conduit **80** on the SUDS **190**. When the SUDS **190** is inserted into the MUDS **130**, the flange **76** forms an interference engagement with a corresponding ridge **78** extending from a portion of the connection port **192** of the MUDS **130**. The interference engagement creates a substantially fluid-tight connection between the MUDS **130** and the SUDS **190**. Pressing the disconnection tabs **68** of the SUDS **190** disengages the flange **76** from the ridge **78** to allow a user to remove the

SUDS **190** from the MUDS **130**. With reference to **FIG. 12**, the connection assembly, having a MUDS **130** and SUDS **190** with disconnection tabs **68** described above, may also be provided in a vertical configuration.

[0076] With reference to **FIGS. 13A** and **13B**, a further embodiment of the connector assembly having a SUDS **190** and a MUDS **130** is illustrated. The MUDS **130** includes the connection port **192** and waste inlet port **196**, as described in previous embodiments. The connection port **192** includes a co-molded sealing surface **82** for sealing between the SUDS **190** and the MUDS **130**. The SUDS **190** includes external alignment surfaces **84**, integrally formed with the enclosure **42**, for correctly aligning the SUDS **190** and the MUDS **130**. The alignment surfaces **84** also recess the fluid inlet port **202** and the waste outlet port **204** of the SUDS **190** to reduce the possibility of contamination prior to use.

[0077] With reference to **FIGS. 14A-16B**, various embodiments of the tubing **208** are illustrated. For example, the tubing **208** may be wound about a holding structure **133**, such as a spool or frame member, for ensuring that the tubing **208** does not unwind while being removed from its packaging or when the SUDS **190** is being connected to the MUDS **130**. With reference to **FIG. 16A**, the tubing **208** may further include a removable external clip **135**. The clip **135** connects about the wound tubing **208** to prevent the tubing **208** from unwinding during removal from packaging or auto-priming. With reference to **FIG. 16B**, in a further embodiment, the tubing **208** is provided with uncoiled portions **137** to keep the tubing **208** away from the SUDS **190**. A coiled portion **139** of the tubing **208** hangs below the un-coiled portions **137**, when the SUDS **190** is connected to the MUDS **130**.

[0078] With reference to **FIG. 17**, an electronic control device **900** (shown in **FIG. 17**) may be associated with fluid injector system **100** to control the filling and delivery operations. In some embodiments, the electronic control device **900** may control the operation of various valves, piston members, and other elements to effect a desired filling or delivery procedure. For example, the electronic control device **900** may include a variety of discrete computer-readable media components. For example, this computer-readable media may include any media that can be accessed by the electronic control device **900**, such as volatile media, non-volatile media, removable media, non-removable media, transitory media, non-transitory media, etc. As a further example, this computer-readable media may include computer storage media, such as media implemented in any method or technology for storage of information, such as computer-readable instructions, data structures, program modules, or other data; random access memory (RAM), read only memory (ROM),

electrically erasable programmable read only memory (EEPROM), flash memory, or other memory technology; CD-ROM, digital versatile disks (DVDs), or other optical disk storage; magnetic cassettes, magnetic tape, magnetic disk storage, or other magnetic storage devices; or any other medium which can be used to store the desired information and which can be accessed by the electronic control device **900**. Further, this computer-readable media may include communications media, such as computer-readable instructions, data structures, program modules, or other data in a modulated data signal, such as a carrier wave or other transport mechanism and include any information delivery media, wired media (such as a wired network and a direct-wired connection), and wireless media (such as acoustic signals, radio frequency signals, optical signals, infrared signals, biometric signals, bar code signals, etc.). Of course, combinations of any of the above should also be included within the scope of computer-readable media.

[0079] The electronic control device **900** further includes a system memory **908** with computer storage media in the form of volatile and non-volatile memory, such as ROM and RAM. A basic input/output system (BIOS) with appropriate computer-based routines assists in transferring information between components within the electronic control device **900** and is normally stored in ROM. The RAM portion of the system memory **908** typically contains data and program modules that are immediately accessible to or presently being operated on by the processing unit **904**, *e.g.*, an operating system, application programming interfaces, application programs, program modules, program data, and other instruction-based computer-readable codes.

[0080] With continued reference to **FIG. 17**, the electronic control device **900** may also include other removable or non-removable, volatile or non-volatile, transitory or non-transitory computer storage media products. For example, the electronic control device **900** may include a non-removable memory interface **910** that communicates with and controls a hard disk drive **912**, *e.g.*, a non-removable, non-volatile magnetic medium; and a removable, non-volatile memory interface **914** that communicates with and controls a magnetic disk drive unit **916** (which reads from and writes to a removable, non-volatile magnetic disk **918**), an optical disk drive unit **920** (which reads from and writes to a removable, non-volatile optical disk **922**, such as a CD ROM), a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port **921** for use in connection with a removable memory card, etc. However, it is envisioned that other removable or non-removable, volatile or non-volatile computer storage media can be used in the exemplary computing system environment **902**, including, but not limited to, magnetic

tape cassettes, DVDs, digital video tape, solid state RAM, solid state ROM, etc. These various removable or non-removable, volatile or non-volatile magnetic media are in communication with the processing unit **904** and other components of the electronic control device **900** via the system bus **906**. The drives and their associated computer storage media, discussed above and illustrated in **FIG. 17**, provide storage of operating systems, computer-readable instructions, application programs, data structures, program modules, program data, and other instruction-based, computer-readable code for the electronic control device **900** (whether duplicative or not of this information and data in the system memory **908**).

[0081] A user may enter commands, information, and data into the electronic control device **900** through certain attachable or operable input devices, such as the user interface **124** shown in **FIG. 1A**, via a user input interface **928**. Of course, a variety of such input devices may be utilized, *e.g.*, a microphone, a trackball, a joystick, a touchpad, a touchscreen, a scanner, etc., including any arrangement that facilitates the input of data, and information to the electronic control device **900** from an outside source. As discussed, these and other input devices are often connected to the processing unit **904** through the user input interface **928** coupled to the system bus **906**, but may be connected by other interface and bus structures, such as a parallel port, game port, or a USB. Still further, data and information can be presented or provided to a user in an intelligible form or format through certain output devices, such as a monitor **930** (to visually display this information and data in electronic form), a printer **932** (to physically display this information and data in print form), a speaker **934** (to audibly present this information and data in audible form), etc. All of these devices are in communication with the electronic control device **900** through an output interface **936** coupled to the system bus **906**. It is envisioned that any such peripheral output devices be used to provide information and data to the user.

[0082] The electronic control device **900** may operate in a network environment **938** through the use of a communications device **940**, which is integral to the electronic control device **900** or remote therefrom. This communications device **940** is operable by and in communication with the other components of the electronic control device **900** through a communications interface **942**. Using such an arrangement, the electronic control device **900** may connect with or otherwise communicate with one or more remote computers, such as a remote computer **944**, which may be a personal computer, a server, a router, a network personal computer, a peer device, or other common network nodes, and typically includes many or all of the components described above in connection with the electronic control

device **900**. Using appropriate communication devices **940**, *e.g.*, a modem, a network interface or adapter, etc., the computer **944** may operate within and communicate through a local area network (LAN) and a wide area network (WAN), but may also include other networks such as a virtual private network (VPN), an office network, an enterprise network, an intranet, the Internet, etc.

[0083] As used herein, the electronic control device **900** includes, or is operable to execute appropriate custom-designed or conventional software to perform and implement the processing steps of the method and system of the present disclosure, thereby forming a specialized and particular computing system. Accordingly, the presently-invented method and system may include one or more electronic control devices **900** or similar computing devices having a computer-readable storage medium capable of storing computer-readable program code or instructions that cause the processing unit **904** to execute, configure, or otherwise implement the methods, processes, and transformational data manipulations discussed hereinafter in connection with the present disclosure. Still further, the electronic control device **900** may be in the form of a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, a portable computer, a laptop, a palmtop, a mobile device, a mobile telephone, a server, or any other type of computing device having the necessary processing hardware to appropriately process data to effectively implement the presently-invented computer-implemented method and system.

[0084] It will be apparent to one skilled in the relevant arts that the system may utilize databases physically located on one or more computers which may or may not be the same as their respective servers. For example, programming software on electronic control device **900** can control a database physically stored on a separate processor of the network or otherwise.

[0085] In some embodiments, the electronic control device **900** may be programmed so that automatic refill occurs based upon a preprogrammed trigger minimum volume in the respective syringes **132**. For example, when the volume of fluid remaining in at least one of the syringes **132** is less than a programmed volume, a syringe refill procedure is automatically initiated by the electronic control device **900**. The electronic control device **900** associated with the fluid injector system **100** may determine that the preprogrammed trigger minimum volume has been reached by tracking the fluid volume dispensed from the respective syringes **132** during operation of the fluid injector system **100**. Alternatively, fluid level sensors may be incorporated into the fluid injector system **100** and inputs from these fluid level sensors may be provided to the electronic control device **900** so that the electronic

control device **900** may determine when the preprogrammed trigger minimum volume has been reached in at least one of the syringes **132**. The fill volume and rate of refill can be preprogrammed in the electronic control device **900**. The automatic refill procedure can be stopped either automatically by the electronic control device **900** or may be manually interrupted. In addition, an automatic refill procedure may be initiated when, at the completion of a fluid injection procedure, there is not enough fluid in at least one of the syringes **132** to perform the next programmed fluid injection procedure.

[0086] During a refill procedure it is possible that one or more of the bulk fluid sources **120** associated with the respective syringes **132** may become empty, (*e.g.*, initially lack sufficient fluid to complete a full refill of the one or more syringes **132**). A replacement bulk fluid source **120** is, therefore, necessary and replacement of such bulk fluid source **120** is desirably made quickly. The fluid injector system **100** may have an indicator, such as an audible and/or visual indicator, to indicate to the operator that a change of the bulk fluid source **120** is necessary before the fluid injector system **100** may be used.

[0087] While several embodiments of single-use disposable set connectors are shown in the accompanying figures and described hereinabove in detail, other embodiments will be apparent to, and readily made by, those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the disclosure. For example, it is to be understood that this disclosure contemplates that, to the extent possible, one or more features of any embodiment can be combined with one or more features of any other embodiment. Accordingly, the foregoing description is intended to be illustrative rather than restrictive.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A medical connector comprising:
a fluid inlet port configured for removable engagement with a connection port of a multi-use disposable set (MUDS) to establish a fluid connection therewith;
a waste outlet port configured for removable engagement with a waste inlet port of the MUDS to establish a fluid connection therewith; and
a patient fluid line connected, at a first end, to the fluid inlet port and connected, at a second end, to the waste outlet port,
wherein fluid flow through the patient fluid line is unidirectional from the first end to the second end, and
wherein the patient fluid line is configured for being disconnected from the waste outlet port for delivering fluid to a patient.
2. The medical connector of claim 1, further comprising a locking mechanism for removably securing the medical connector to the MUDS.
3. The medical connector of claim 2, wherein the locking mechanism has a flexible tab that is deflectable between an engaged position and a disengaged position by deflecting at least a portion of the flexible tab.
4. The medical connector of claim 3, wherein the flexible tab has a pressing surface that, when pressed, deflects the flexible tab from the engaged position to the disengaged position.
5. The medical connector of claim 1, wherein the fluid inlet port comprises a shroud surrounding at least a portion of the fluid inlet port.
6. The medical connector of claim 5, wherein the shroud has at least one indentation to facilitate handling of the medical connector.
7. The medical connector of claim 5, wherein the shroud has one or more ribs protruding from an outer surface of the shroud.

8. The medical connector of claim 1, wherein the fluid inlet port is shaped to prevent connection with the waste inlet port of the MUDS and wherein the waste outlet port is shaped to prevent connection with the connection port of the MUDS.

9. The medical connector of claim 1, wherein the medical connector has an asymmetrical shape such that the medical connector is connectable with the MUDS in one orientation only.

10. The medical connector of claim 9, further comprising at least one fin to prevent erroneous connection of the medical connector with the MUDS.

11. The medical connector of claim 1, wherein the second end of the patient fluid line has a connector configured for removable engagement with the waste outlet port while maintaining sterility of the second end.

12. The medical connector of claim 11, wherein the connector is in fluid communication with the waste outlet port when engaged with the waste outlet port.

13. The medical connector of claim 11, wherein the connector is a luer-lock connector.

14. The medical connector of claim 1, further comprising a one-way valve configured for maintaining unidirectional flow through the fluid inlet port into the patient fluid line.

15. The medical connector of claim 1, further comprising at least one sensor element configured for interacting with at least one sensor configured for detecting a presence or absence of the at least one sensor element indicating that the medical connector has been properly inserted or installed in the connection port.

16. The medical connector of claim 15, wherein the at least one sensor element has one or more reflective surfaces for reflecting visible or infrared light to the at least one sensor.

17. The medical connector of claim 1, wherein the fluid inlet port has at least one seal for forming a fluid-tight connection between the fluid inlet port and the connection port.

18. A single-use disposable set connector, the connector comprising:
a fluid inlet port configured for removable engagement with a connection port of a multi-use disposable set (MUDS) to establish a fluid connection therewith;
a waste outlet port configured for removable engagement with a waste inlet port of the MUDS to establish a fluid connection therewith;
a spacer separating the fluid inlet port from the fluid outlet port;
a locking mechanism configured for removably securing the connector to the MUDS, the locking mechanism having a flexible tab that is deflectable between an engaged position and a disengaged position by deflecting at least a portion of the flexible tab;
a patient fluid line connected, at a first end, to the fluid inlet port; and
a connector connected to a second end of the patient fluid line,
wherein fluid flow through the patient fluid line is unidirectional from the first end to the second end, and
wherein the connector is configured for removable fluid connection with the waste outlet port for delivering fluid to a patient.

19. A method of delivering fluid using a single-use disposable set (SUDS) connector, the method comprising:
fluidly connecting a fluid inlet port of the SUDS connector with a connection port of a multi-use disposable set (MUDS);
establishing a fluid communication between a waste outlet port of the SUDS connector and a waste inlet port of the MUDS;
priming the SUDS connector by delivering fluid from the fluid inlet port to the waste outlet port through a fluid line;
disconnecting the fluid line from the waste outlet port; and
delivering fluid from the fluid inlet port to a connector through the fluid line.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising locking the SUDS connector to the MUDS prior to priming the SUDS connector.