

CLAIMS

1. A catheter assembly comprising:

5 a catheter hub having a distal end, a proximal end and a chamber therein;

a hollow tubular catheter having a proximal end and a distal end, the catheter being connected at its proximal end to the distal end of the catheter hub, the interior of the catheter opening into the chamber within the catheter hub;

10 a needle having a shaft and a sharpened needle tip;

a valve assembly disposed within the chamber of the catheter hub and comprising a generally tubular first valve portion and a second valve portion, wherein the second valve portion is in the form of a disc, and wherein the valve disc comprises one or a plurality of slits therein, the second valve portion being
15 a two-way valve openable to permit the flow of fluid through the chamber in the catheter hub in both a proximal direction and a distal direction;

a valve opener moveable between a closed position, in which the second valve portion is closed, and an open position, in which the second valve portion is open, the valve opener having a passage extending longitudinally
20 therethrough and/or around for passage of fluid;

a needle guard assembly comprising:

a housing having the needle extending therethrough and having a distal end and a proximal end, the housing being connected at its distal end to the proximal end of the catheter hub;

25 a needle guard disposed within the housing, the needle guard comprising:

a needle trap moveable between a ready position, in which the needle trap is held to one side of the shaft of the needle extending through the housing; and a protected position, in which the needle trap blocks the sharpened needle
30 tip of the needle within the housing;

a resilient arm biasing the needle trap into the protected position, the resilient arm bearing against the inner wall of the housing to urge the needle trap into the protected position;