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(72) Inventor; and
(71) Applicant : **FRESCO, Bernard** [CA/CA]; 375 Walmer Rd., Toronto, Ontario M5R 2Y3 (CA).

(74) Agent: **MILLMAN IP INC**; 1220-401 Bay Street, Box 60, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2Y4 (CA).

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(54) **Title**: FIRST-AID KIT WITH BACKING MEMBER

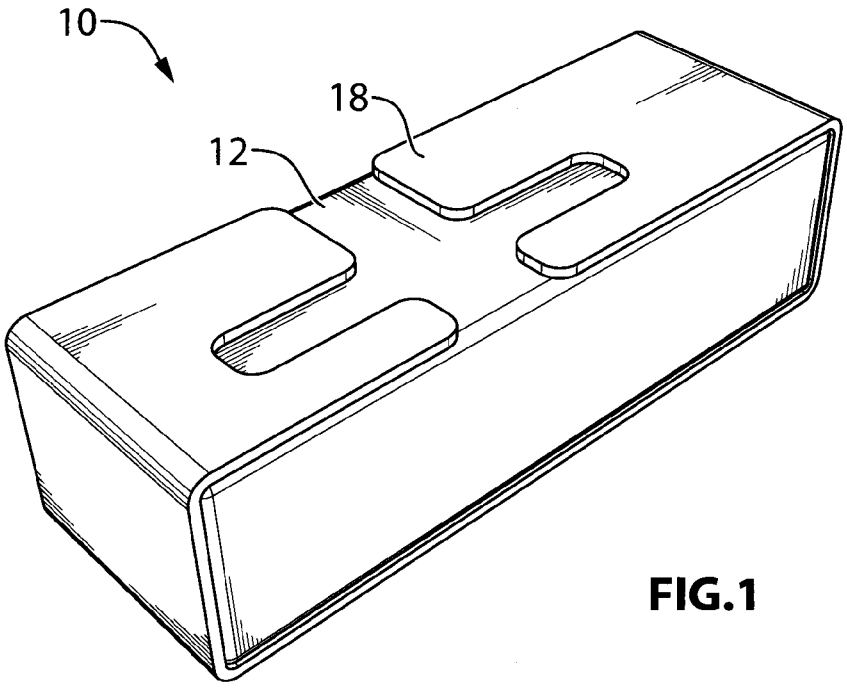


FIG.1

(57) **Abstract**: In a first aspect, the invention is directed to a first-aid kit, comprising a backing member, a plurality of step by step instructions arranged on the backing member, and a plurality of first-aid items, wherein each first-aid item is positioned in association with at least one of the instructions and relates to the at least one of the instructions.

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FIRST-AID KIT WITH BACKING MEMBER

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/600,250, filed February 17, 2012, the contents of which are incorporated herein in their entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to first-aid kits.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] First-aid kits are very useful for treating injuries and the like, where the injury is relatively small and would not warrant a trip to a hospital, or where the injury is larger but would benefit from treatment quickly, (i.e. before the patient would be able to receive care from a doctor, a paramedic or the like). However, it is typical that the first-aid is carried out by a person with little or no medical training. As such these kits may or may not be provided with instructions for use in carrying out the first-aid. There is still significant opportunity for a person to apply the first-aid incorrectly using such kits however, which can result in less benefit to the injury victim than they could otherwise be provided, or which can in some situations worsen the condition of the injury victim.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] In a first aspect, the invention is directed to a first-aid kit, comprising a backing member, a set of step by step instructions arranged on the backing member, and a plurality of first-aid items, wherein each first-aid item is positioned in association with at least one of the instructions and relates to the at least one of the instructions.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0005] The present invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to the attached drawings, in which:

[0006] Figure 1 is a perspective view of a first-aid kit in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0007] Figures 2a-2c are plan views of portions of a backing member with instructions and first-aid items thereon, that forms part of the first-aid kit shown in Figure 1; and

[0008] Figure 3 is a plan view of a portion of the backing member, with the instructions and first-aid items arranged differently than those arranged in Figure 2a-2c.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0009] In many instances, when a person is injured or is otherwise in a condition requiring medical attention, carrying out a first-aid procedure on the injured person can be helpful in many ways and can in some cases help to save the life of the injured person. However, if the first-aid is carried out incorrectly it may not be as helpful as it could be, and could in some situations make the injured person's condition worse. Unfortunately, the person providing the first-aid is, in many cases, untrained medically. Additionally, the person to whom they are providing the first-aid may be known to them (e.g. a family member, a friend). In some instances the person is performing first-aid on themselves. Additionally, there may be a time sensitivity or at least a perceived time sensitivity to carrying out the first-aid procedure. All of these factors may significantly elevate the stress level of the person providing the first-aid.

[0010] Some proposed first-aid kits of the prior art include instructions on how to use the various first-aid items included in the kit, however, use of such kits is still prone to error for several reasons. Such a kit may include instructions and a number of first-aid items (multiple types of ointment, gauze, tape, etc). To use such a kit, the user must open the kit, find the instructions from amongst the first-aid items in the kit, read the instructions, and for each step of the instructions they must find the related element or elements from the kit, and then carry out that step. Unfortunately, due to the elevated stress level that may be present in the person providing the first-aid there is an increased likelihood that the person will grab and use the wrong element from the first-aid kit (e.g. the wrong ointment, the wrong drug) and could apply that wrong element to

the injured person, with potentially harmful results. Also the elevated stress level in the person providing the first-aid can make them less able to carry out certain tasks quickly, such as to find something from amongst a group of things. Such errors occur periodically in high-stress environments such as an operating theatre where medical professionals sometimes pull the wrong drug from a drug storage cabinet and administer it to a patient in response to a sudden development during an operation.

[0011] Reference is made to Figure 1, which shows a first-aid kit 10 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. The first-aid kit 10 is configured to permit a person to carry out a first-aid procedure with multiple steps with a reduced likelihood of error relative to the likelihood of error that would be associated with certain prior art first-aid kits. Referring to Figures 2a-2c, the first-aid kit 10 includes a backing member 12, a set of step by step instructions, shown at 14, arranged on the backing member 12, and a plurality of first-aid items 16, all of which can be folded into a container 18 (shown in Figure 1). Each first-aid item 16 is positioned in association with at least one of the instructions 14 and relates to the at least one of the instructions 14.

[0012] The backing member 12 may be a flexible sheet of material (e.g. cloth material or plastic material) and may be foldable to a storage position (Figure 1) and openable to a use position (Figures 2a-2c). Instead of being a flexible member the backing member 12 could alternatively be made up of a plurality of rigid or semi-rigid members that are hingedly connected together at selected locations to permit them to fold to a storage position and open to a use position. While the backing member 12 is shown as a sheet of material in the figures, it may alternatively be configured as a frame or other open structure. Such a structure may, for example, be made up of connecting members, such as rods, that are connected to each other.

[0013] In this particular example, the first-aid kit 10 is configured for the treatment of a person who is bleeding. In other examples, the first-aid kit 10 may be configured for the treatment of burns, loss of consciousness, broken bones, hypothermia or any other suitable medical condition. To use the first-aid kit 10, a user opens the container 18 and removes the backing member 12 with the instructions 14 and first-aid items 16

thereon. The user can then open (i.e. unfold) the backing member 12 and carry out the first-aid procedure.

[0014] As shown in Figures 2a-2c, each instruction 14 may include one or more textual instruction elements 22 and one or more graphical instruction elements 24. For example, the instructions shown at 14a, 14b and 14c each include one textual instruction element 22 and one graphical instruction element 24. In another example, the instruction shown at 14e in Figure 2b includes one textual instruction element 22 and two graphical textual elements 24. The textual and graphical instruction elements 22 and 24 may be positioned on the backing member 12 by any suitable means. For example, they may be printed directly on the backing member 12. Alternatively, for example, they may be printed on one large sheet or on individual sheets, whereby the one or more sheets may be joined to the backing member 12 by means of adhesive, by sewing, or by any other suitable means.

[0015] On the backing member the instructions 14 are preferably positioned in sequential order, as shown in Figures 2a-2c, with the first instruction shown at 14a at the top, the second instruction shown at 14b immediately subjacent to instruction 14a, the third instruction shown at 14c immediately subjacent to instruction 14b and so on. Also preferably, the instructions include indicia shown at 20 which indicate the order in which the first aid steps are to be carried out. As shown in Figures 2a-2c, the indicium 20 associated with instruction 14a is a 1, indicating that that is the first first-aid step to be carried out; the indicium 20 associated with instruction 14b is a 2, indicating that that is the second first-aid step to be carried out; the indicium 20 associated with instruction 14c is a 3, indicating that that is the third first-aid step to be carried out. The indicia 20 need not be numerical. The indicia may, for example, be alphabetical. In yet another embodiment, the indicia may be graphical (e.g. in the form of arrows that lead from one instruction 14 to the next).

[0016] While it is preferred to have the textual instruction elements 22 aligned with each other, the graphical instruction elements 24 aligned with each other and the first-aid items 16 be aligned with each other as shown in Figures 2a-2c it is alternatively possible for them to not be precisely aligned with each other, as shown in the

arrangement of Figure 3. Furthermore, while it is preferred to have a consistent arrangement of the textual instruction element 22, the graphical instruction element 24 and the first-aid item 16 in each first-aid step, such as is shown in the first-aid steps identified by indicia 1-8 in Figures 2a-2c it is possible to have different arrangements of these elements 22, 24 and 16 in different steps, such as is shown in the first-aid steps by indicia at 1-3 in Figure 3.

[0017] In the arrangement shown in Figure 3 the particular arrangement of the textual and graphical instruction elements changes from instruction 14 to instruction 14, but the instructions 14 are still arranged generally in sequence. That is, the instruction 14b is positioned subjacent to instruction 14a; instruction 14c is subjacent to instruction 14c and so on. As a result, the arrangement of the instructions 14 generally provides to the user an indication of the order of the first-aid steps to be carried out. When the instructions 14 are arranged in some order, such as the vertical arrangement shown in Figures 2a-2c and Figure 3, it is optionally possible to omit the indicia 20 and to rely solely on the arrangement of the instructions itself to indicate to the user the order in which the first-aid steps are to be carried out. It is alternatively possible to have the instructions 14 arranged in any desired arrangement and to rely on the indicia 20 to indicate to the user the intended order in which the first-aid steps are to be carried out.

[0018] As noted above, each first-aid item 16 is positioned in association with at least one of the instructions 14. In some embodiments, each instruction 14 has a first-aid item 16 associated with it. Alternatively, however, one or more of the instructions 14 may not have any first-aid item associated therewith. As shown in Figure 2b, an instruction, such as, for example, instruction 14f, may have a plurality of first-aid items 16 positioned in association with it.

[0019] Each first-aid item 16 may be held in a pocket 26 on the backing member 12. The pocket 26 may be formed by any suitable means. Preferably, the pocket 26 is closable (e.g. via a flap, or via a plastic zipper as shown) to ensure that the first-aid item 16 contained therein does not fall out. Also preferably, the first-aid item 16 can be seen through the wall of the pocket 26. Alternatively, the first-aid items 16 may be held on the backing member 12 by any other suitable means.

[0020] To carry out the first-aid procedure, the user can start with the first instruction shown at 14a. In the example shown in Figure 2a, it can be seen that the first instruction 14a instructs the user to place a glove on each hand. The first-aid item 16 positioned in association with that instruction 14a is a pair of gloves. The second instruction 14b instructs the user to apply a disinfectant to the affected area if there is dirt in the wound, using the disinfectant that is the first-aid item 16 positioned in association with the second instruction. The third instruction 14c instructs the user to apply an antibiotic ointment to the affected area, using the antibiotic ointment that is the first-aid item 16 positioned in association with the third instruction. While the antibiotic ointment and the disinfectant do appear different, it is possible that someone could have gotten one confused with the other when carrying out a first-aid procedure using a certain type of first-aid kit of the prior art. However, by positioning the disinfectant and the antibiotic ointment in association with the second and third instructions respectively, it is relatively unlikely that the user would inadvertently use one in the place of the other. As can be seen, the rest of the instructions 14 follow in Figures 2b and 2c.

[0021] As noted above, the instruction 14f has two first-aid items 16 associated with it however these first-aid items 16 are both involved in the carrying out of the instruction 14f.

[0022] The set of instructions 14 may contain a decision instruction which involves a decision on the part of the user, wherein the decision has multiple possible outcomes. The decision instruction 14 may branch to different subsequent instructions in the set depending on the different outcomes of the decision. For example, the instruction 14d in Figure 2b includes a decision instruction which is: If bleeding persists (after having applied a bandage), the user is to proceed to instruction 14e. Without it being explicitly stated it will be understood that if bleeding does not persist, the user need not proceed to instruction 14e in which case there are no further steps to the first-aid procedure.

[0023] By providing the first-aid items 16 on the backing member 12 in association with the related instructions 14, the user has fewer tasks to perform as compared to some first-aid kits of the prior art. For example, the user, when using the

kit 10, does not need to search through a container full of items for a particular item that is needed for a particular step. Furthermore, the user is not faced with the task of deciding which of several items that look similar is the correct one that was intended to be used at a given step in the instructions. By removing the need to perform such tasks the stress on the user of carrying out a first-aid procedure may be reduced, thereby increasing the likelihood of the procedure being carried out correctly. Furthermore, it will be noted that some time is consumed by such tasks as searching through a container for a particular item and comparing similar items to determine which is the correct one to use at a given step. By eliminating such tasks, a user can provide the first-aid more quickly than can be achieved with some kits of the prior art.

[0024] While the above description constitutes a plurality of embodiments of the present invention, it will be appreciated that the present invention is susceptible to further modification and change without departing from the fair meaning of the accompanying claims.

CLAIMS:

1. A first-aid kit, comprising:

A backing member;

a set of step by step instructions arranged on the backing member; and

a plurality of first-aid items, wherein each first-aid item is positioned in association with at least one of the instructions and relates to the at least one of the instructions.

2. A first-aid kit as claimed in claim 1, wherein each instruction includes at least one instruction element selected from the group consisting of a textual instruction element and a graphical instruction element.

3. A first-aid kit as claimed in claim 1, wherein each instruction includes at least one textual instruction element and at least one graphical instruction element.

4. A first-aid kit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the instructions include at least one decision instruction that identifies a selected decision to be made, the decision instruction branching to a plurality of groups of further instructions, each group being associated with a selected possible outcome of the decision.

5. A first-aid kit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a storage container, wherein the backing member, while holding the plurality of first-aid items, folds into a storage position wherein the backing member is sized to fit within a storage container.

6. A first-aid kit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of first-aid items includes at least one of: a thermal blanket, gauze, medical tape, scissors, disinfectant rinse, antibiotic ointment, and pain relief medicine.

7. A first-aid kit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the backing member is made up of a flexible sheet of material.

8. A first-aid kit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an indicium positioned in association with each instruction wherein the indicia indicate the order in which the instructions are to be carried out.

5

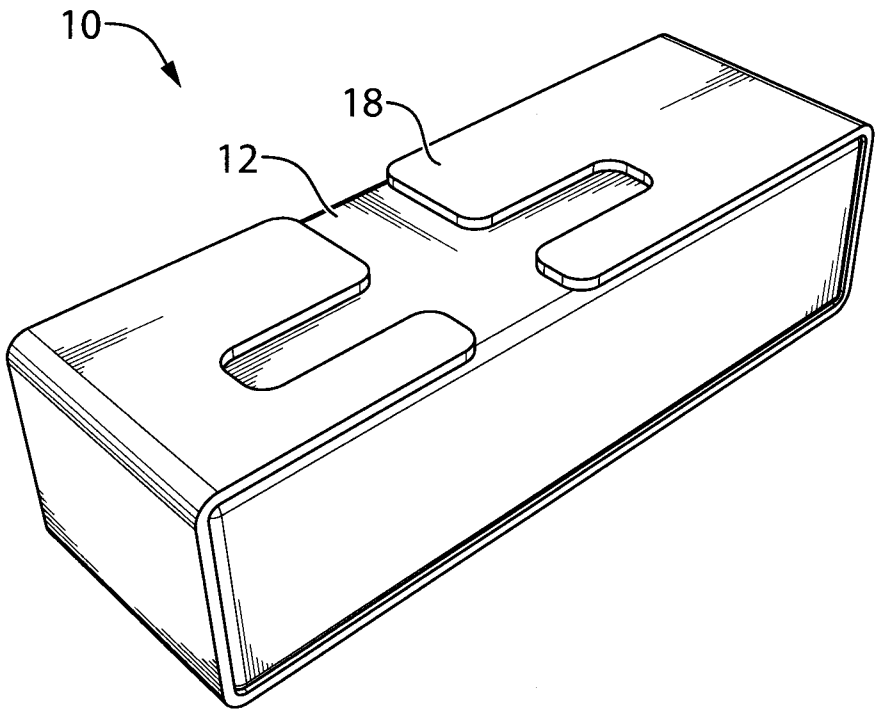


FIG.1

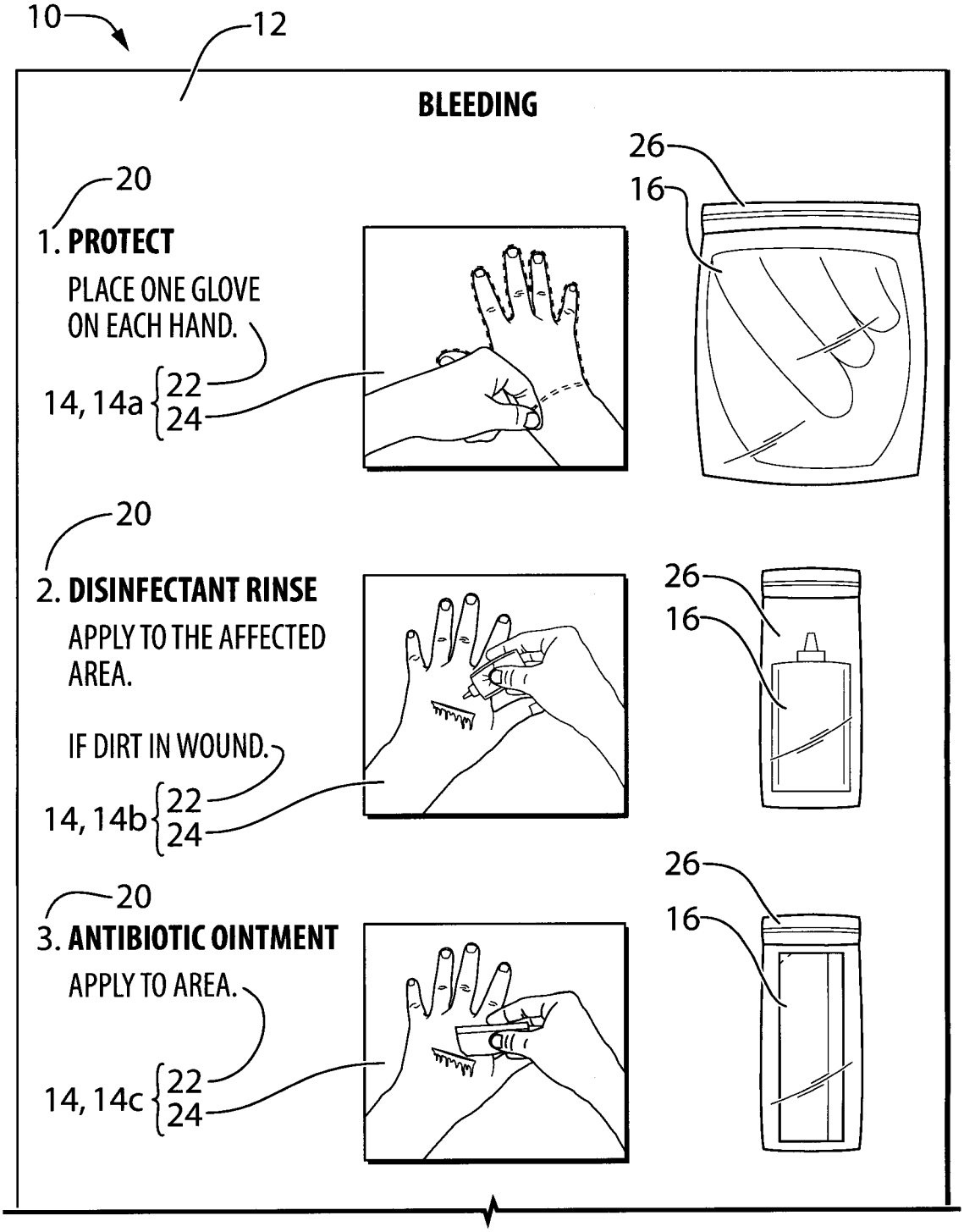

10
12
BLEEDING
20
1. PROTECT
PLACE ONE GLOVE ON EACH HAND.
14, 14a
22
24
26
16
20
2. DISINFECTANT RINSE
APPLY TO THE AFFECTED AREA.
IF DIRT IN WOUND.
14, 14b
22
24
26
16
20
3. ANTIBIOTIC OINTMENT
APPLY TO AREA.
14, 14c
22
24
26
16

FIG.2A

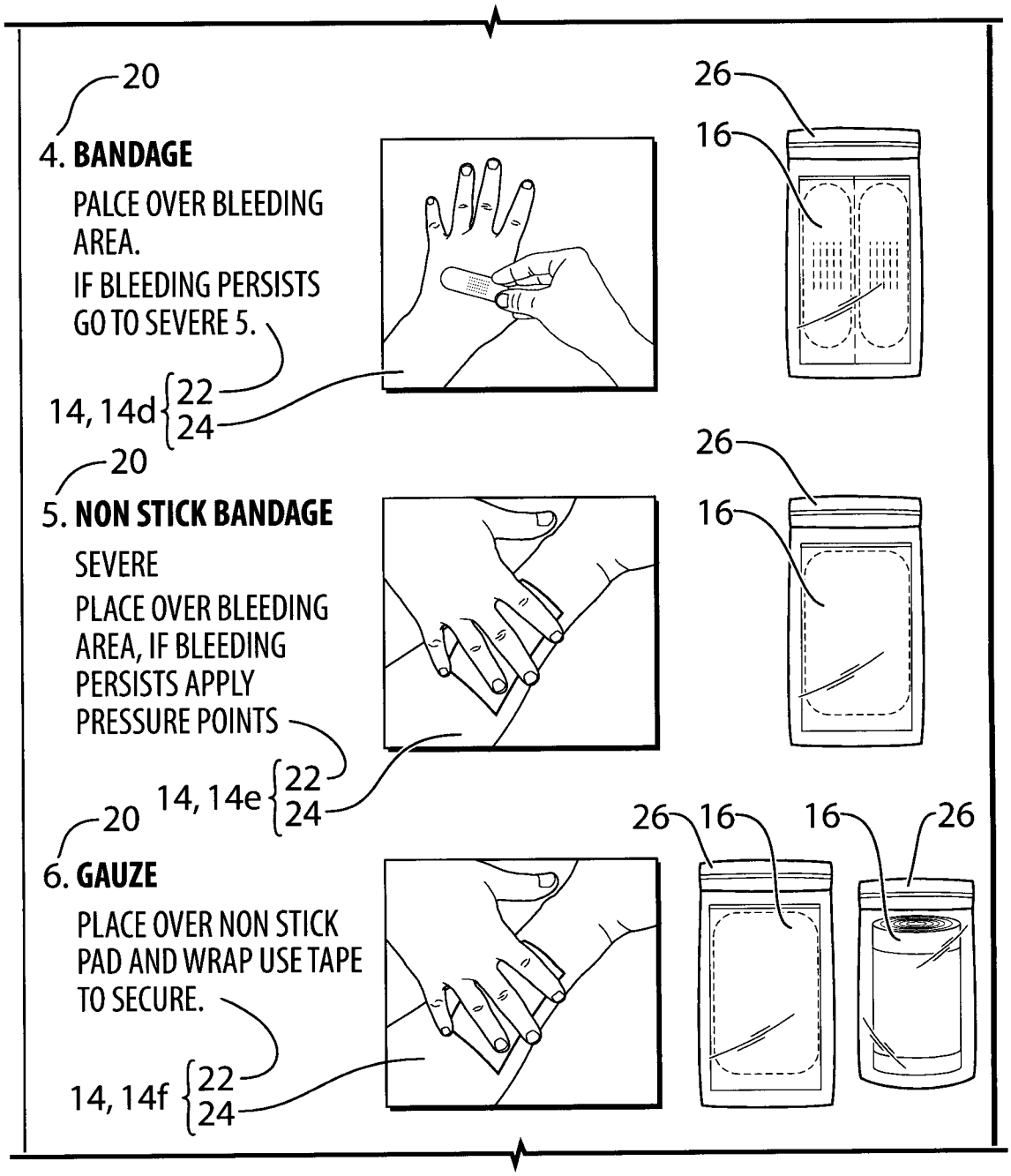

20
4. BANDAGE
PALCE OVER BLEEDING AREA.
IF BLEEDING PERSISTS GO TO SEVERE 5.
14, 14d
22
24
26
16
20
5. NON STICK BANDAGE
SEVERE
PLACE OVER BLEEDING AREA, IF BLEEDING PERSISTS APPLY PRESSURE POINTS
14, 14e
22
24
26
16
20
6. GAUZE
PLACE OVER NON STICK PAD AND WRAP USE TAPE TO SECURE.
14, 14f
22
24
26
16
16
26

FIG.2B

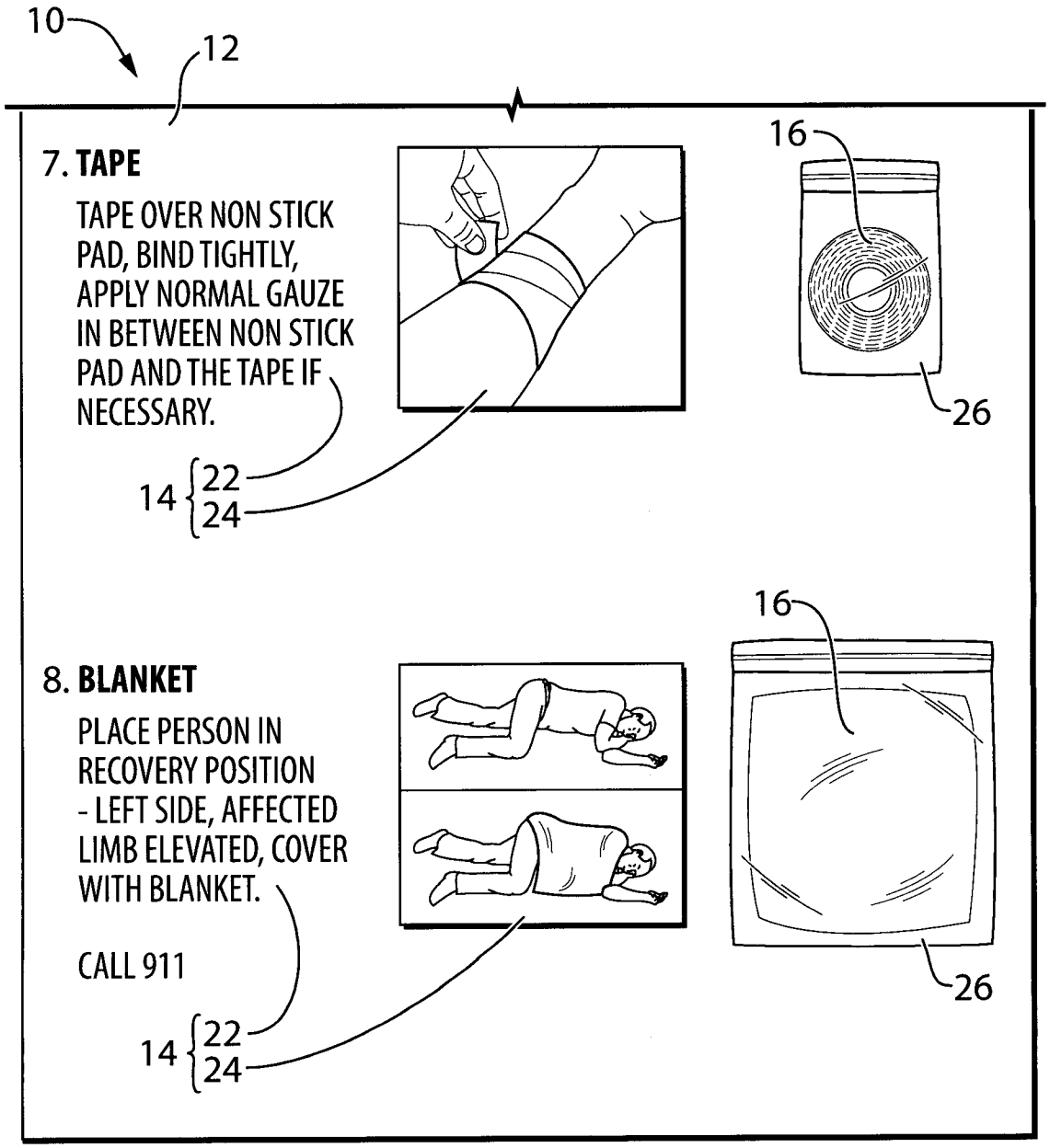

10
12
7. TAPE
TAPE OVER NON STICK PAD, BIND TIGHTLY, APPLY NORMAL GAUZE IN BETWEEN NON STICK PAD AND THE TAPE IF NECESSARY.
14
22
24
16
26
8. BLANKET
PLACE PERSON IN RECOVERY POSITION - LEFT SIDE, AFFECTED LIMB ELEVATED, COVER WITH BLANKET.
CALL 911
14
22
24
16
26

FIG.2C

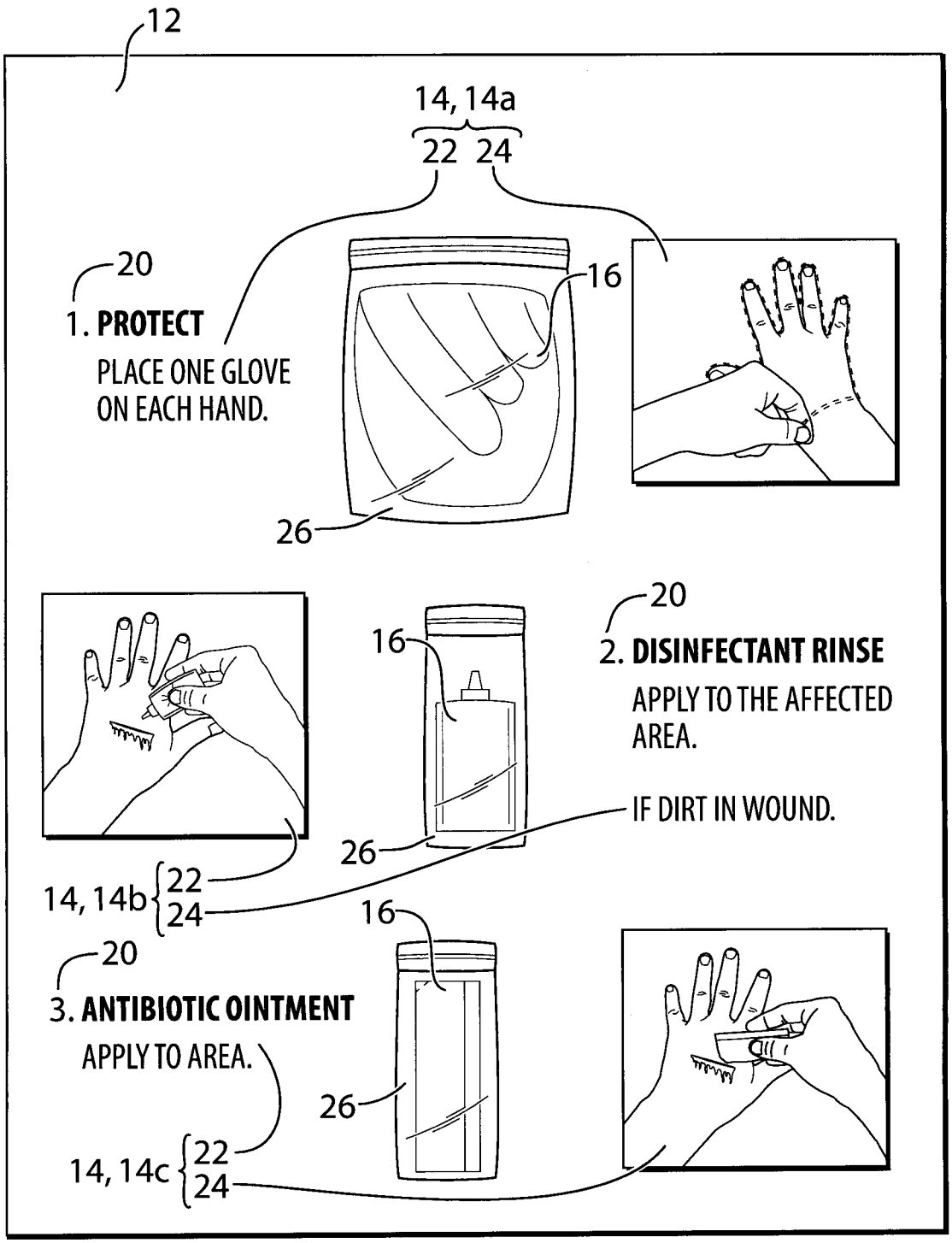

12
14, 14a
22 24
20
1. PROTECT
PLACE ONE GLOVE ON EACH HAND.
16
26
20
2. DISINFECTANT RINSE
APPLY TO THE AFFECTED AREA.
IF DIRT IN WOUND.
16
26
14, 14b
22
24
20
3. ANTIBIOTIC OINTMENT
APPLY TO AREA.
16
26
14, 14c
22
24

FIG.3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/CA2013/000130

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC: ***A61F 17/00*** (2006.01)
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC&ECLA(2006.01): A61F 17/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
none

Electronic database(s) consulted during the international search (name of database(s) and, where practicable, search terms used)
Database: Epoque (Epodoc, Xfull)
Keywords: kit?, instruction*, print*, back*, first, aid, method, process

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO9851258A1 (WEINSTEIN) 19 November 1998 (19-11-1998) *Figs. 1-4; page 4 line 22-page 5 line 2; page 6 lines 9-18; page 7 lines 10-15 and 17-20*	1-3, 5-8
A	WO0198169A1 (HAMMOND) 27 December 2001 (27-12-2001) *the whole document*	1-3, 5-8
A	GB2395342A (DE PLATER) 19 May 2004 (19-05-2004) *the whole document*	1-3, 5-8
A	US6571790B1 (WEINSTEIN) 03 June 2003 (03-06-2003) *the whole document*	1-3, 5-8

[ ] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

[X] See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
05 April 2013 (05-04-2013)	24 April 2013 (24-04-2013)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/CA	Authorized officer
Canadian Intellectual Property Office Place du Portage I, C114 - 1st Floor, Box PCT 50 Victoria Street Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0C9 Facsimile No.: 001-819-953-2476	Bethany Seaman (819) 934-2643

Patent Family Annex

Patent Document Cited in Search Report	Publication Date	Patent Family Member(s)	Publication Date
WO9851258A1	19 November 1998 (19-11-1998)	AU7568398A	08 December 1998 (08-12-1998)
		DE69838719D1	27 December 2007 (27-12-2007)
		DE69838719T2	10 April 2008 (10-04-2008)
		EP0999816A1	17 May 2000 (17-05-2000)
		EP0999816B1	14 November 2007 (14-11-2007)
		US5941241A	24 August 1999 (24-08-1999)
		US6571790B1	03 June 2003 (03-06-2003)
		US6792939B1	21 September 2004 (21-09-2004)
WO0198169A1	27 December 2001 (27-12-2001)	AU7385800A	02 January 2002 (02-01-2002)
		CA2382102A1	27 December 2001 (27-12-2001)
		CA2382102C	26 October 2004 (26-10-2004)
		EP1289849A1	12 March 2003 (12-03-2003)
		EP1289849A4	17 March 2004 (17-03-2004)
		US5931304A	03 August 1999 (03-08-1999)
		US2002008047A1	24 January 2002 (24-01-2002)
		US6460702B2	08 October 2002 (08-10-2002)
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		US6957738B2	25 October 2005 (25-10-2005)
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		AU2003246341A1	27 May 2004 (27-05-2004)
		AU2003246341B2	16 December 2004 (16-12-2004)
		CA2441148A1	11 May 2004 (11-05-2004)
		CA2441148C	10 October 2006 (10-10-2006)
		GB0321939D0	22 October 2003 (22-10-2003)
		GB2395342B	06 October 2004 (06-10-2004)
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		DE69838719D1	27 December 2007 (27-12-2007)
		DE69838719T2	10 April 2008 (10-04-2008)
		EP0999816A1	17 May 2000 (17-05-2000)
		EP0999816B1	14 November 2007 (14-11-2007)
		US5941241A	24 August 1999 (24-08-1999)
		US6792939B1	21 September 2004 (21-09-2004)
		WO9851258A1	19 November 1998 (19-11-1998)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/CA2013/000130

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of the first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons :

1. [X] Claim Nos. : 4

because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely :

This claim is considered to be a mere presentation of information, which the International Search Authority is not required to search under Article 17(2)(a)(i) and Rule 39.1(v) of the Patent Cooperation Treaty Regulations.

2. [ ] Claim Nos. :

because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically :

3. [ ] Claim Nos. :

because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows :

1. [ ] As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. [ ] As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

3. [ ] As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claim Nos. :

4. [ ] No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim Nos. :

Remark on Protest

[ ] The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.

[ ] The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.

[ ] No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.