



(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**

Toman et al.

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2004/0034331 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: Feb. 19, 2004**

(54) **INTEGRATED MEDICATION DELIVERY SYSTEM**

(76) Inventors: **Jason Toman**, Portage, MI (US); **Doug Staunton**, Kalamazoo, MI (US)

Correspondence Address:
HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.
THE PINEHURST OFFICE CENTER, SUITE #101
39400 WOODWARD AVENUE
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304-5151 (US)

(60) Provisional application No. 60/271,187, filed on Feb. 23, 2001. Provisional application No. 60/451,161, filed on Feb. 28, 2003.

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **A61M 31/00**; A61M 1/00
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **604/500**; 604/151

(57) **ABSTRACT**
A medication delivery system includes a reservoir for storing a supply of medication and a pump assembly coupled to the reservoir. The pump assembly has a pump inlet and a pump outlet and is controllable to provide a flow of medication in the form of a series of pulses. The pump outlet is subdivided into a plurality of legs. A controller is coupled to the pump assembly for controlling the pump assembly and receives a desired flow of medication and responsively controls the pump assembly to provide a series of pulses of medication to provide the desired flow of medication. The series of pulses are determined to provide an outlet pressure at the pump outlet adapted to reduce an effect of any differential pressure between the legs.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/461,939**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 13, 2003**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 10/083,266, filed on Feb. 23, 2002.

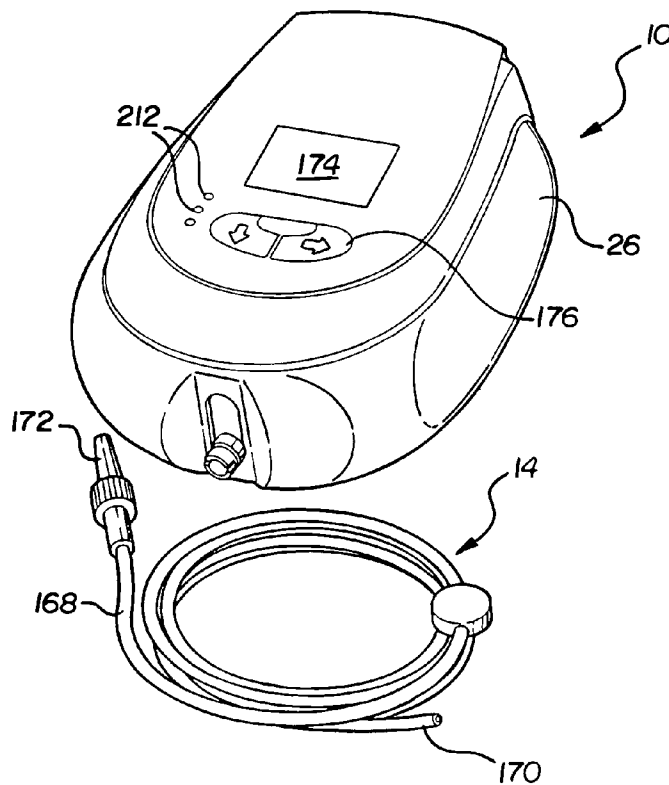


FIG - 1A

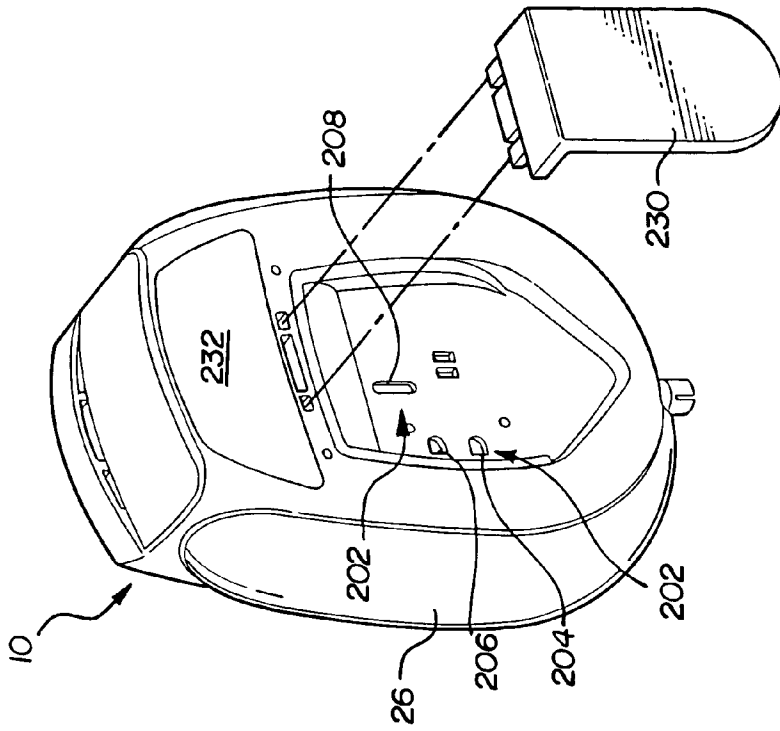
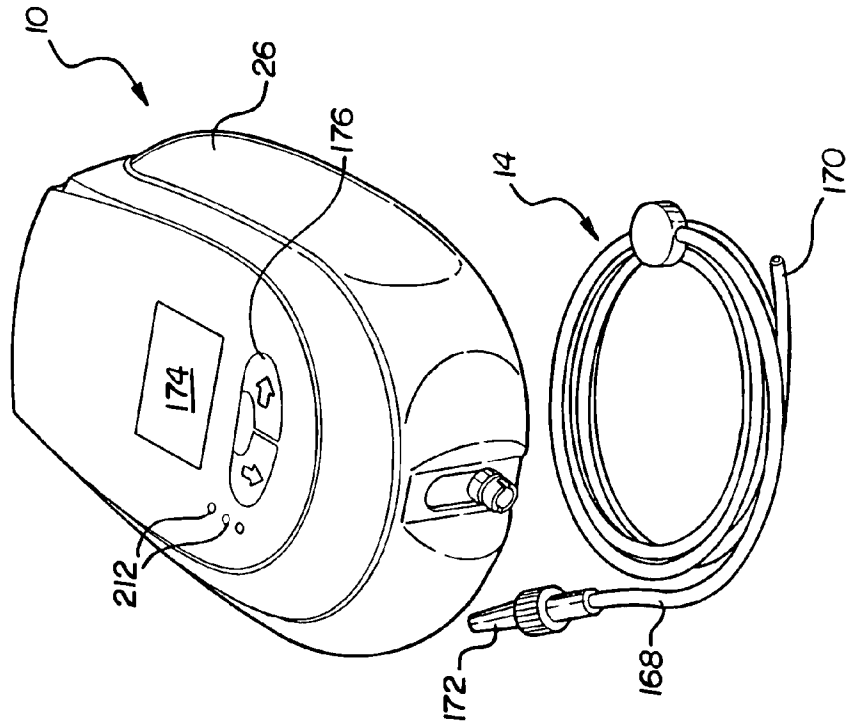
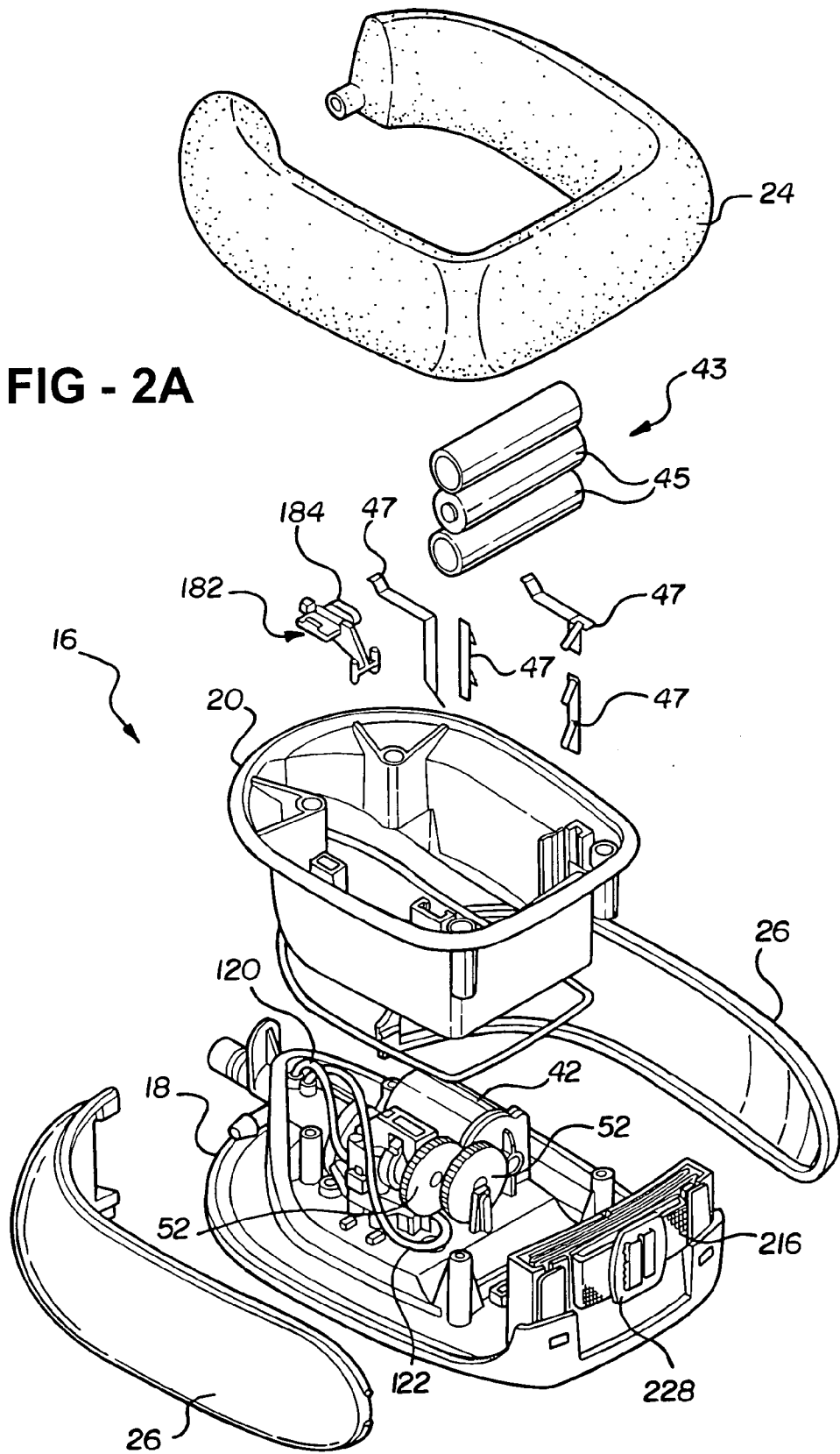


FIG - 1B



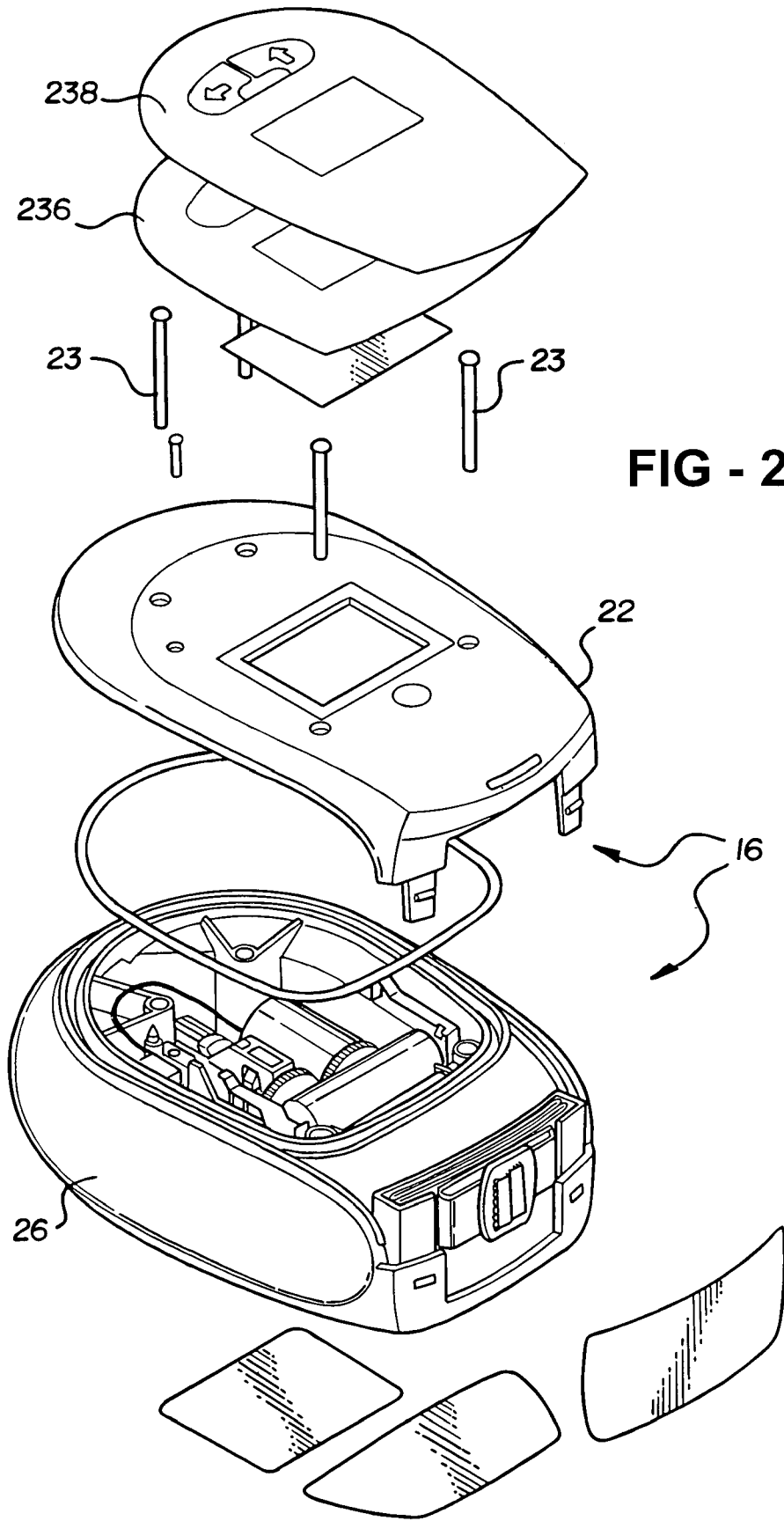
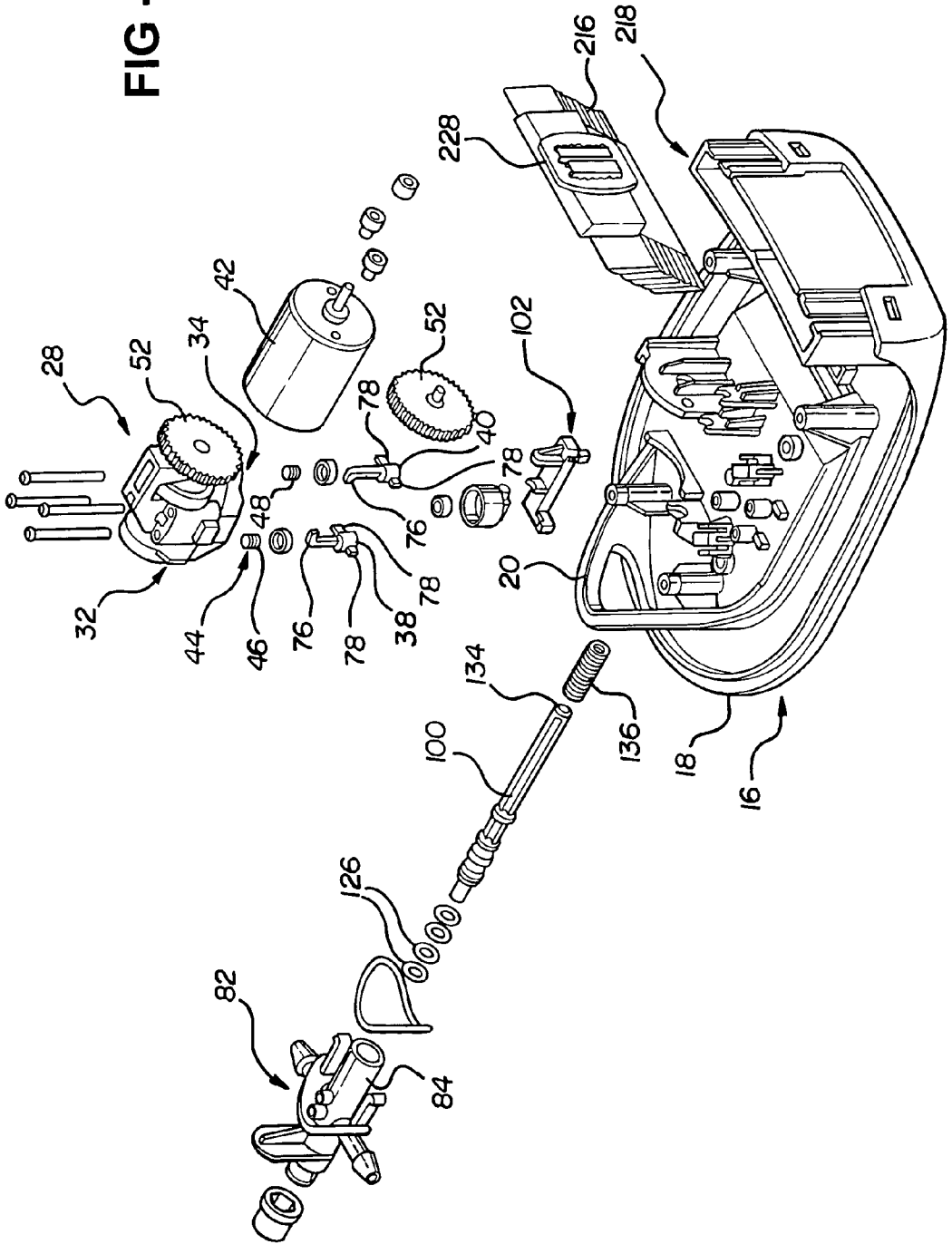


FIG - 2B

FIG - 3



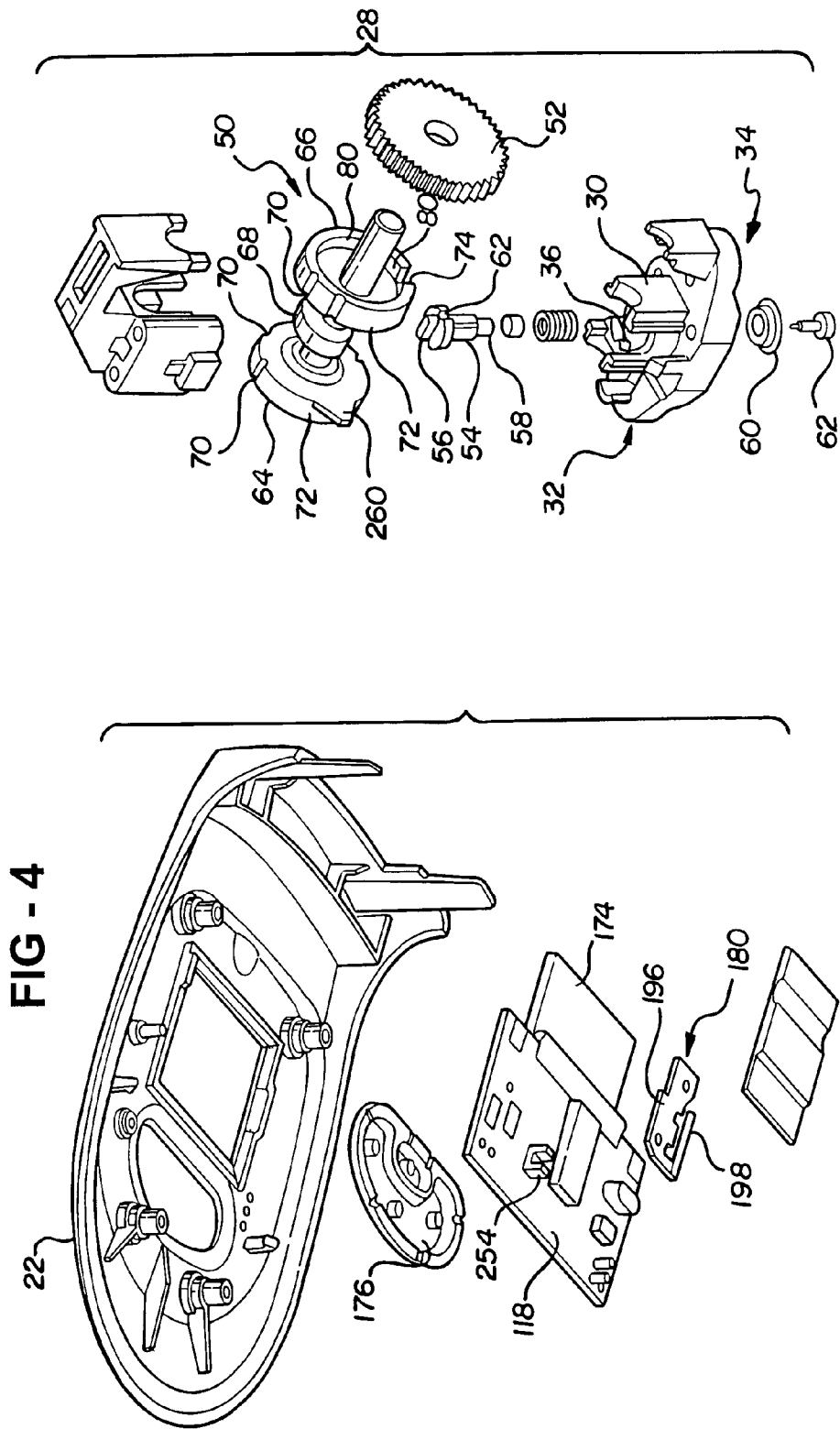
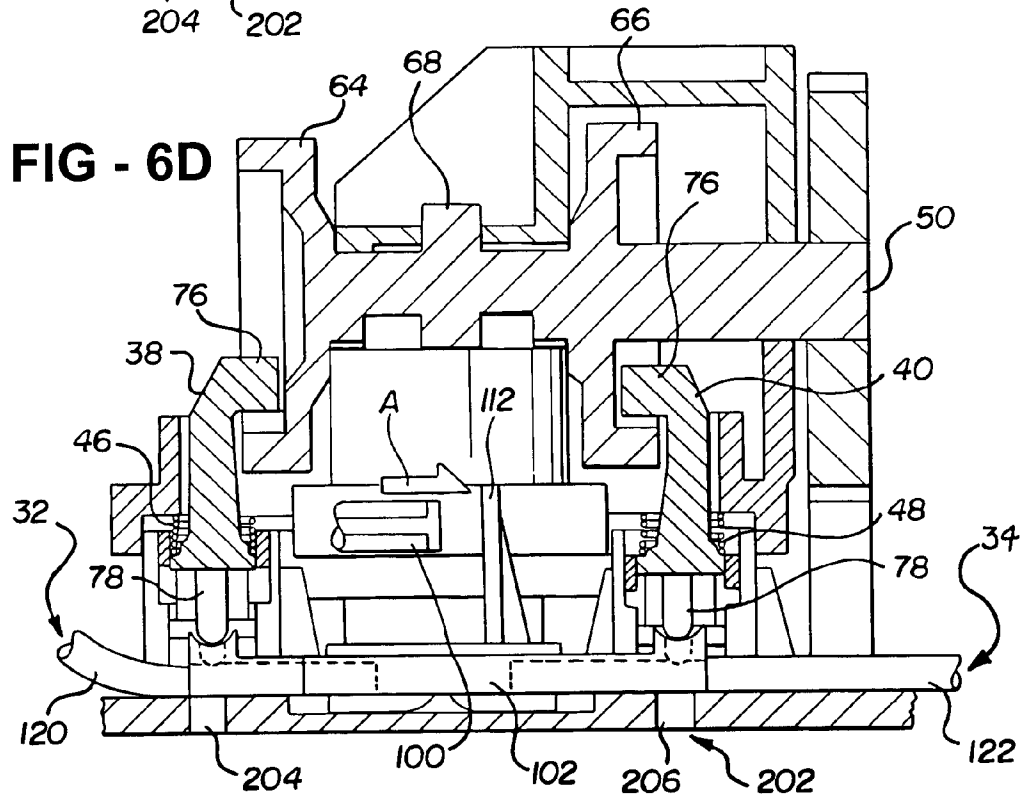
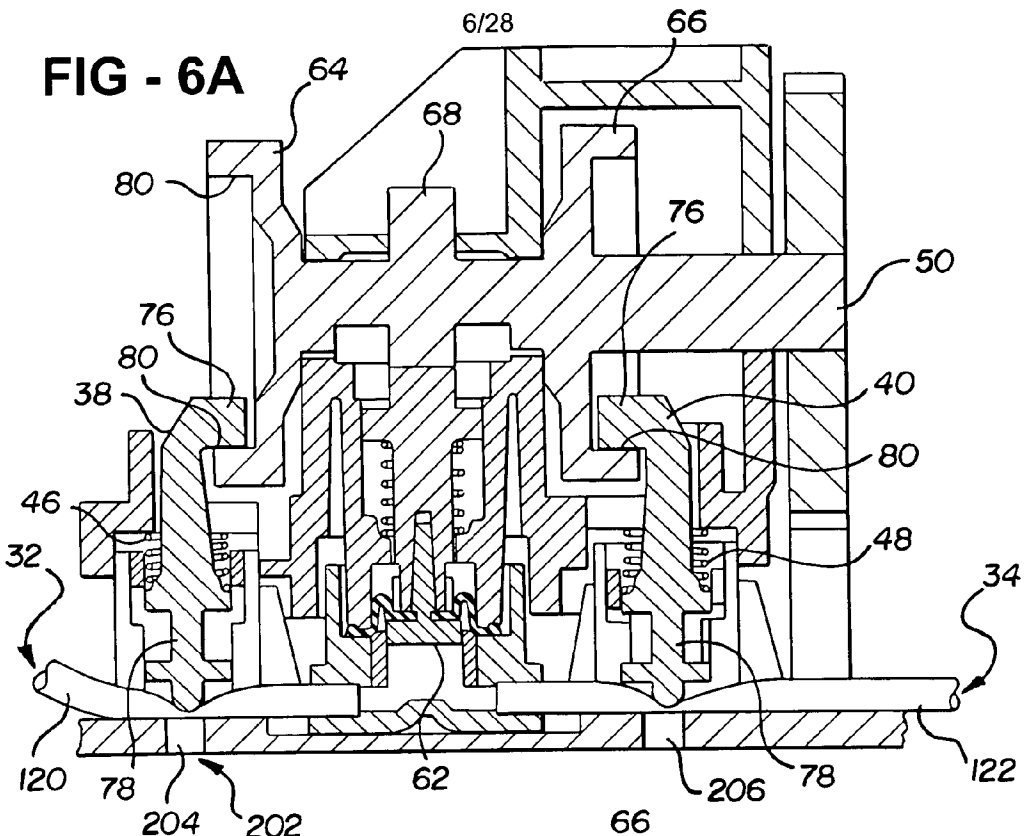


FIG - 4

FIG - 5



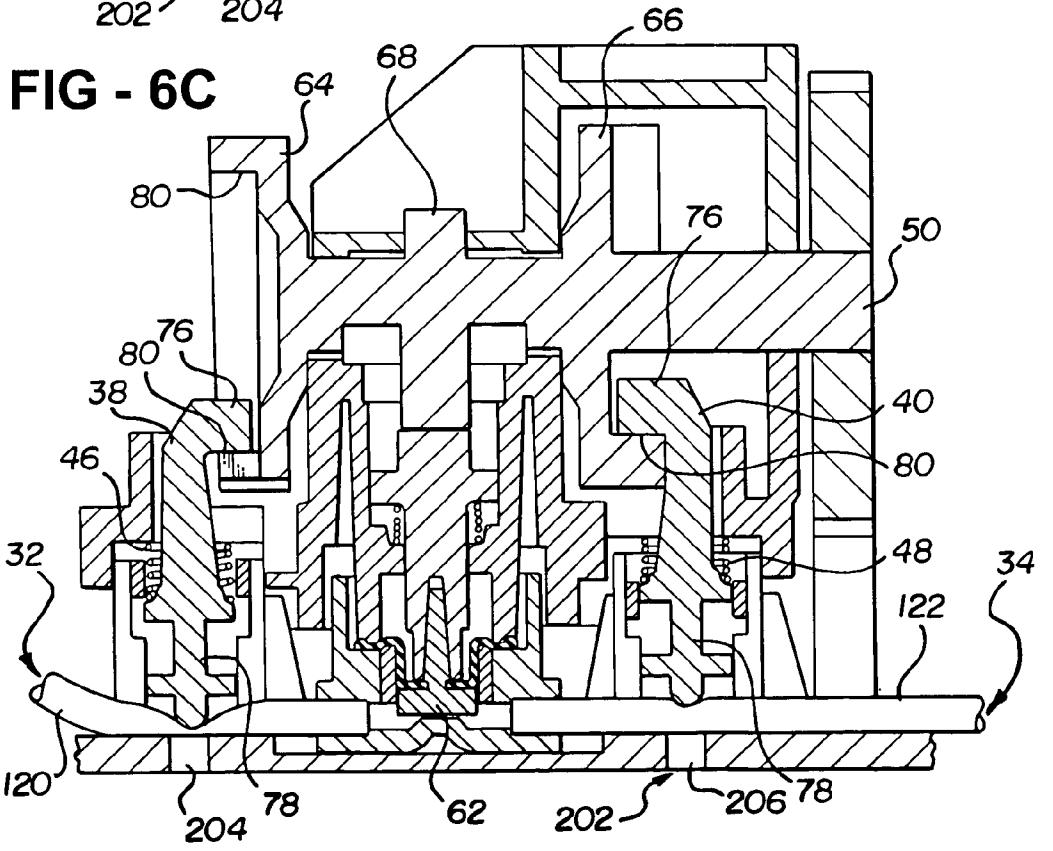
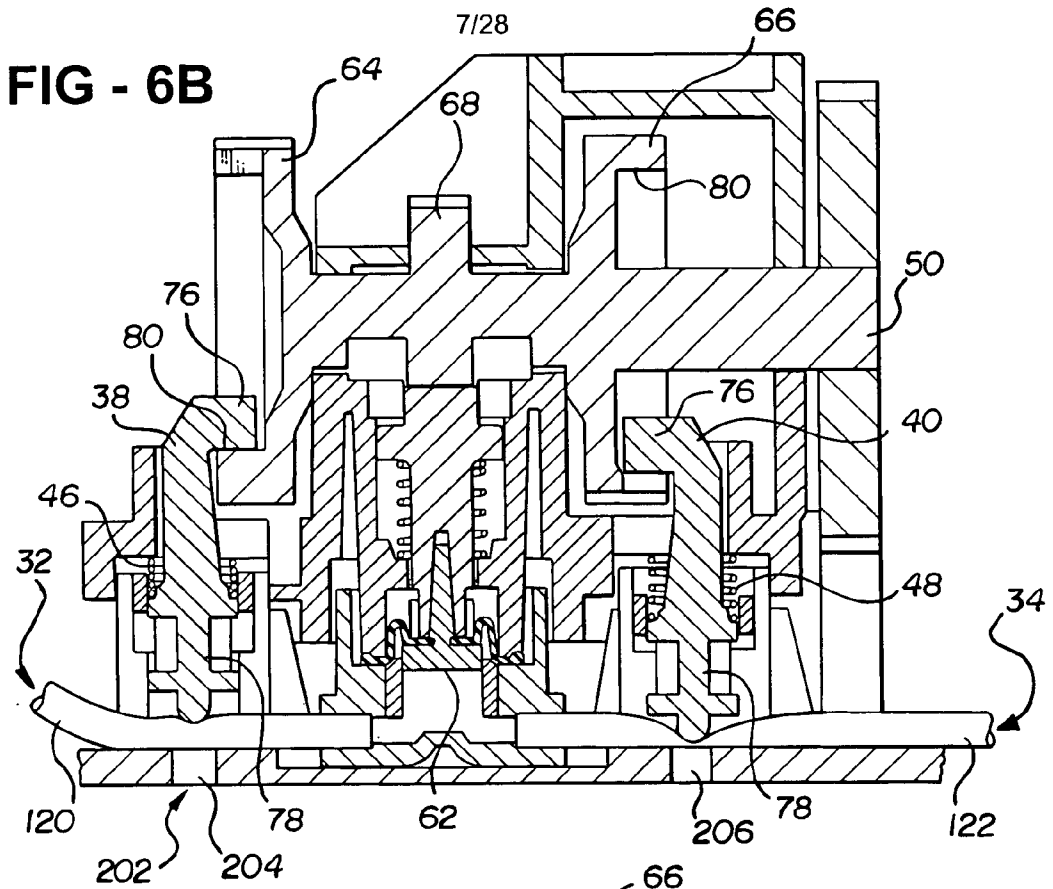
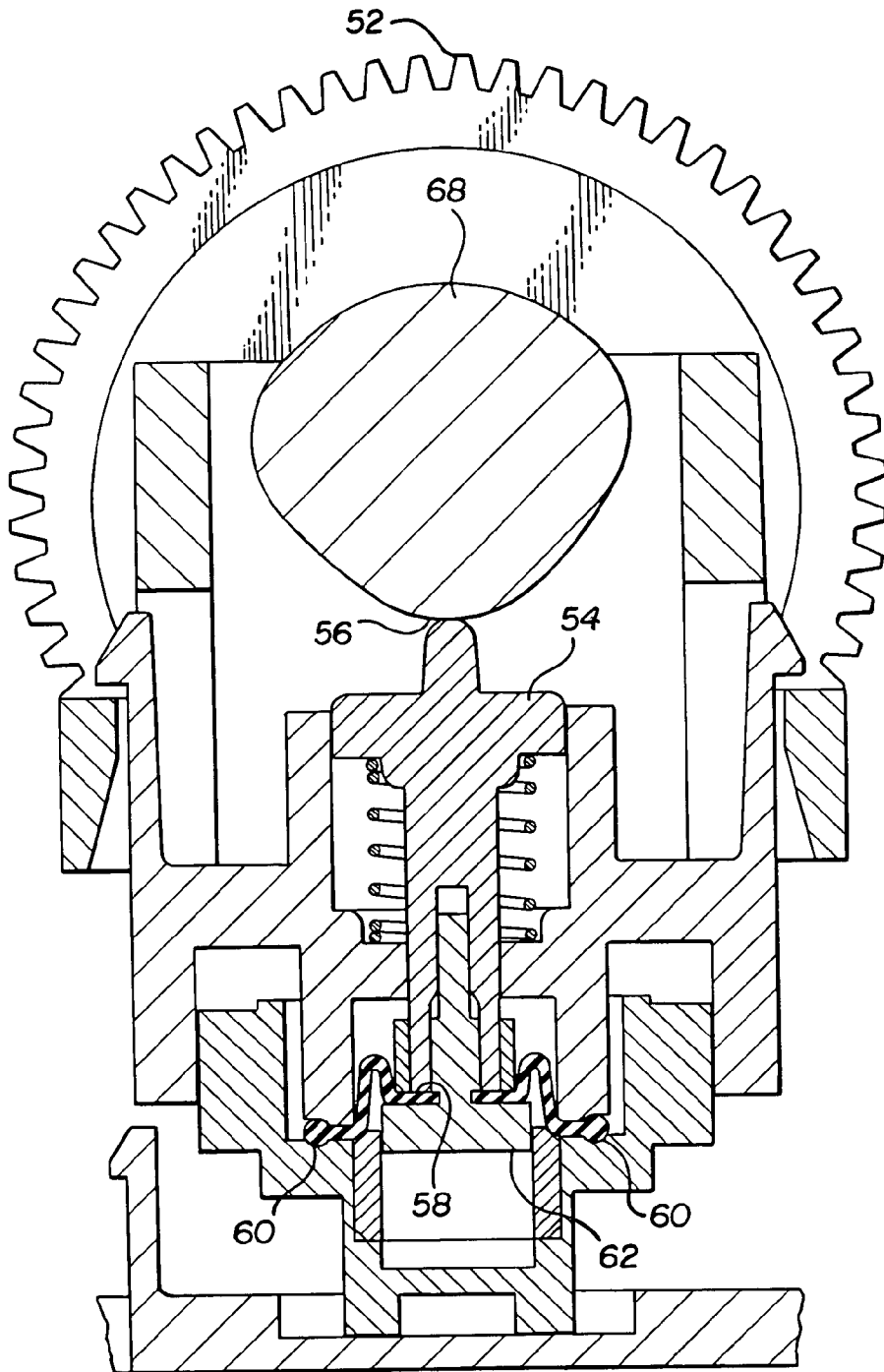
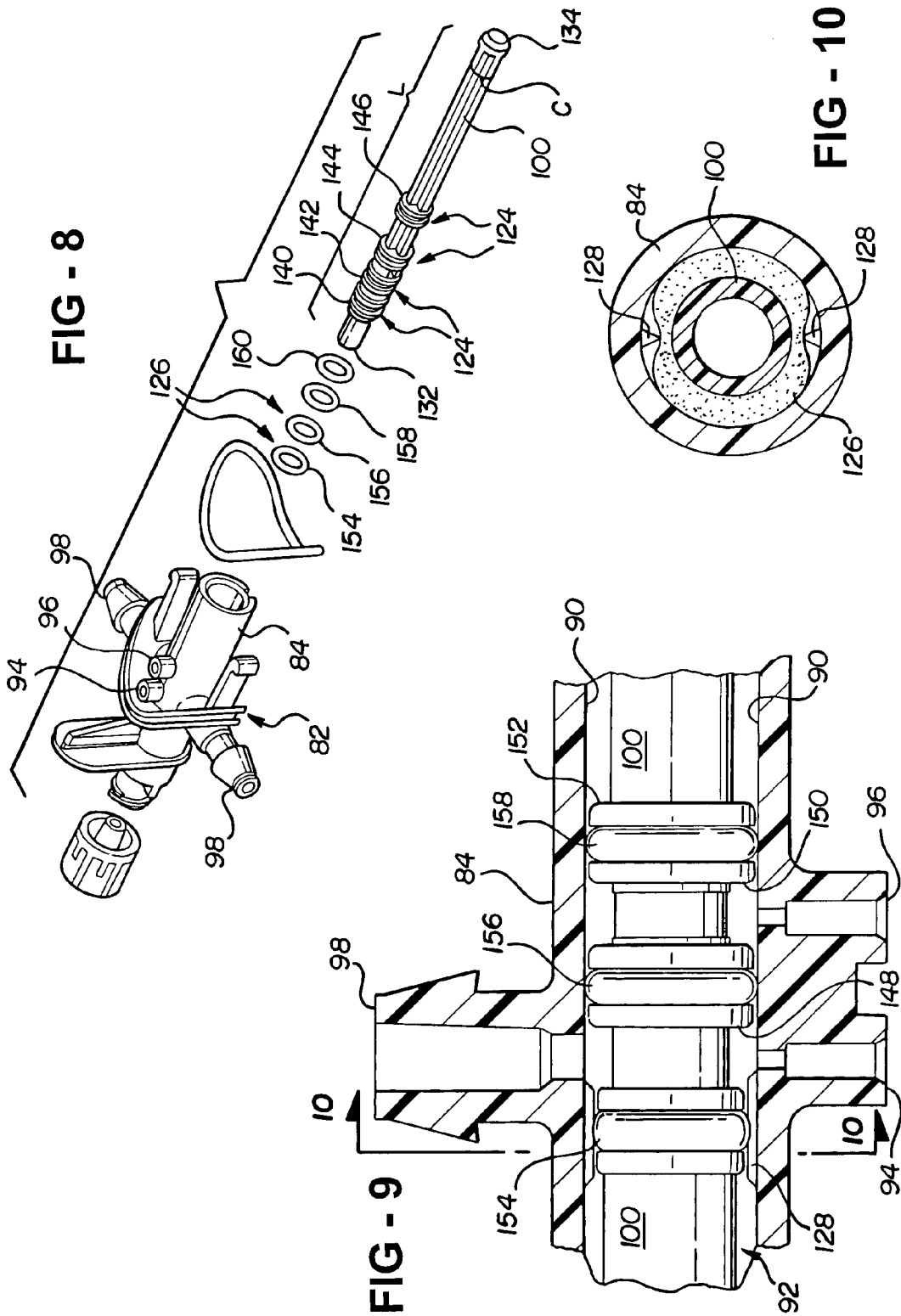
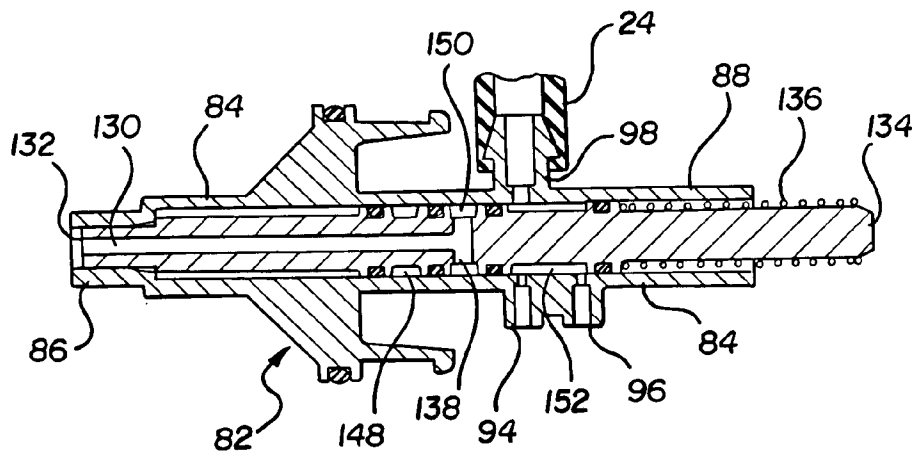
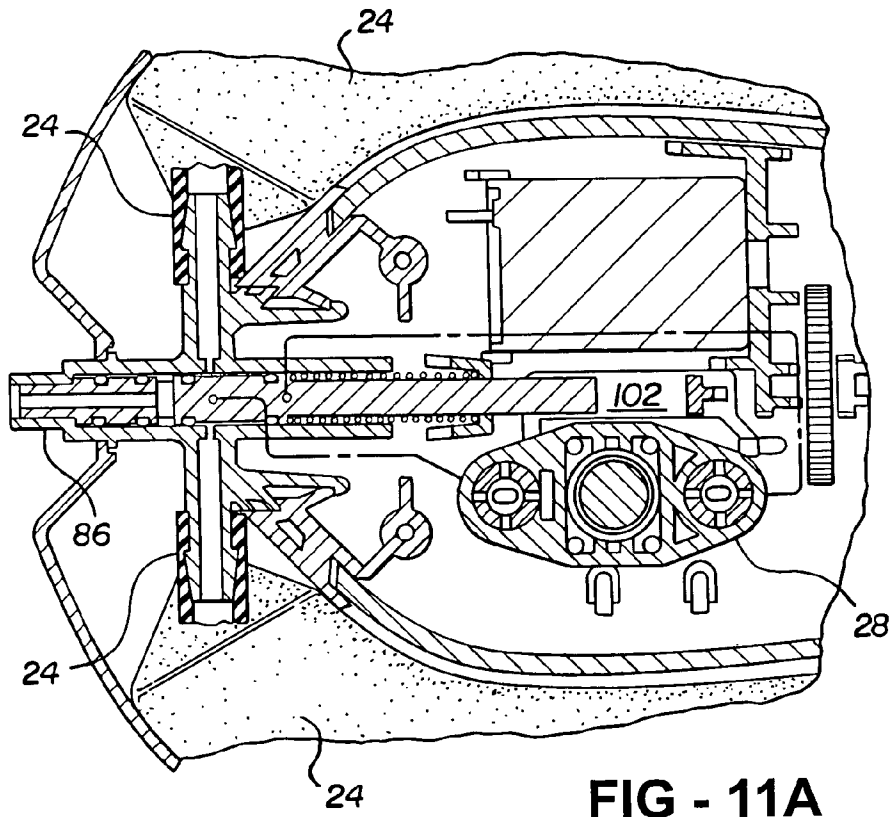


FIG - 7







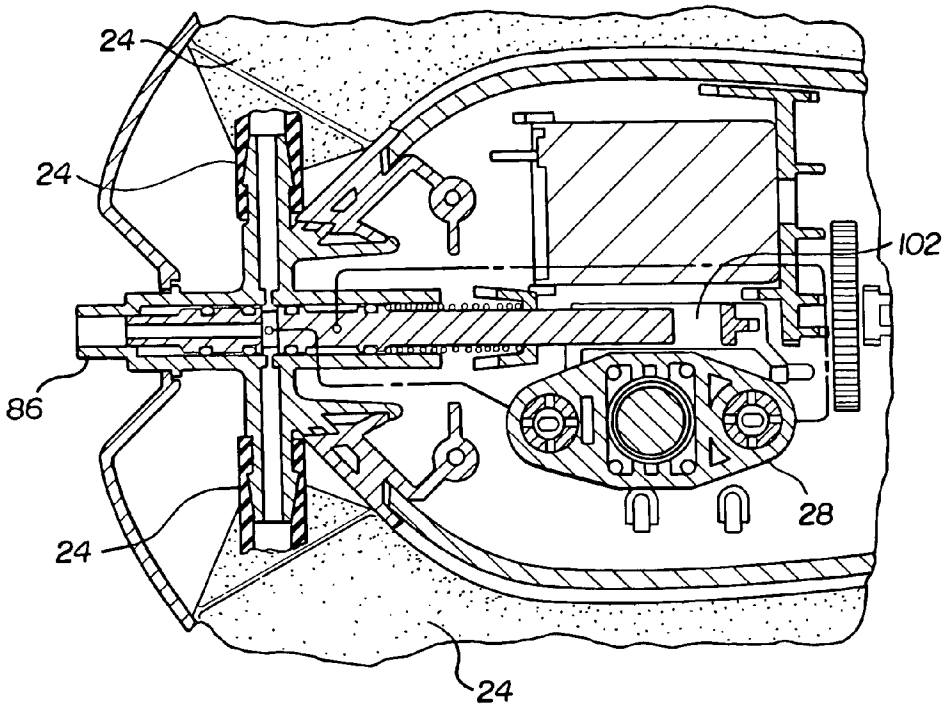


FIG - 12A

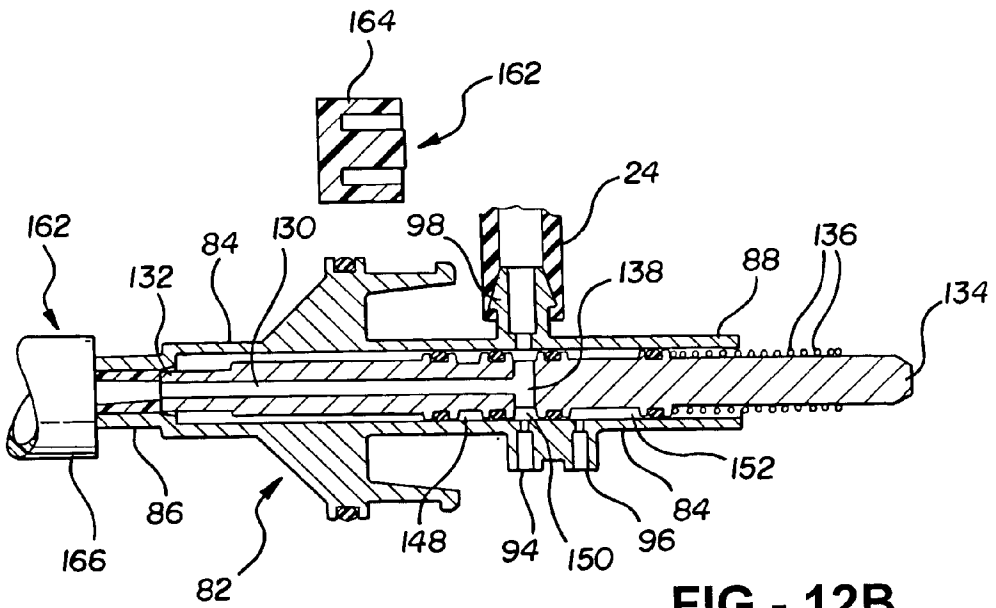


FIG - 12B

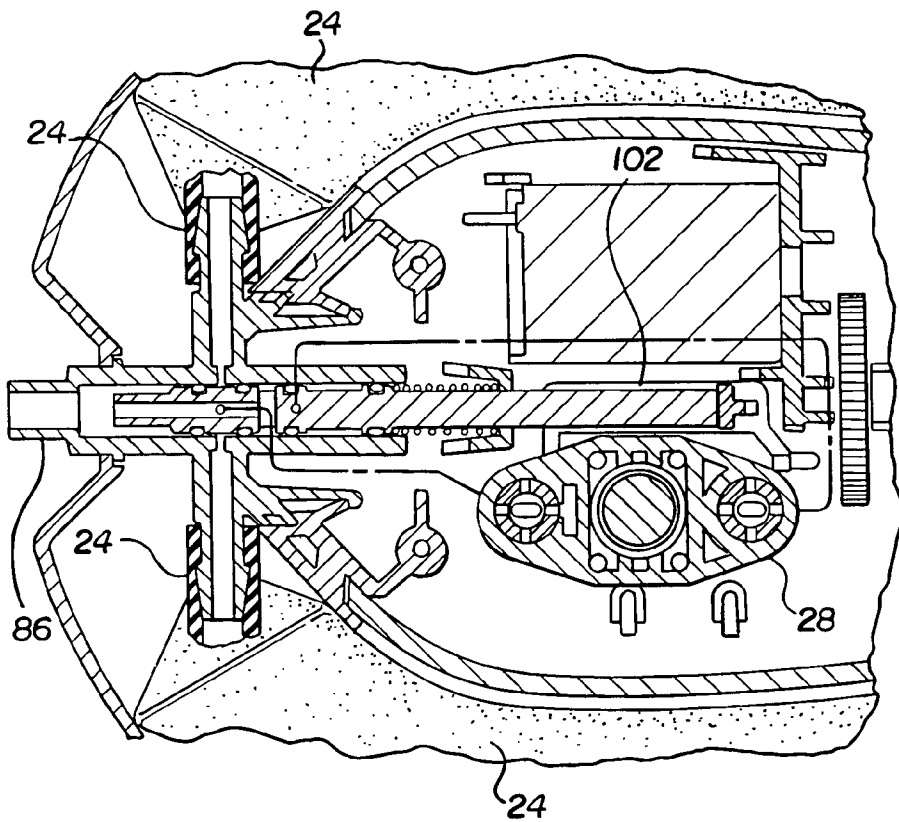


FIG - 13A

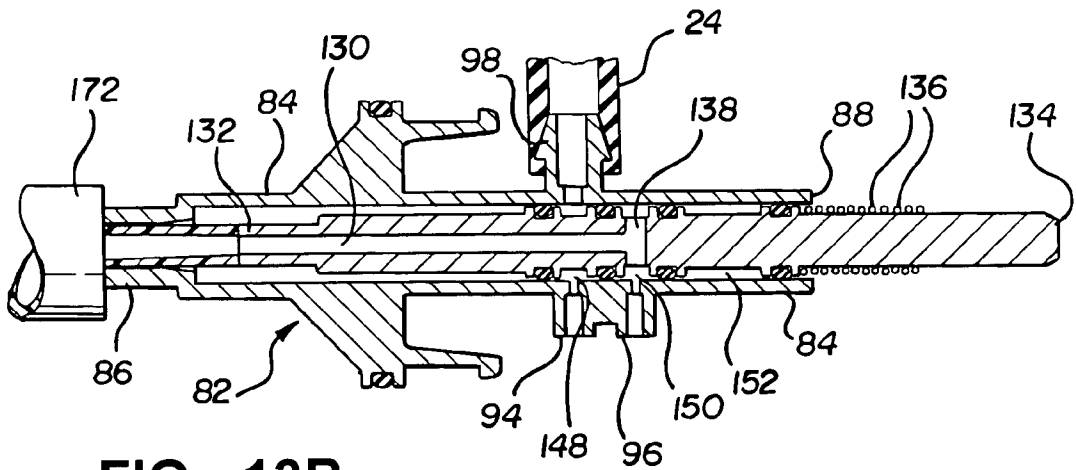
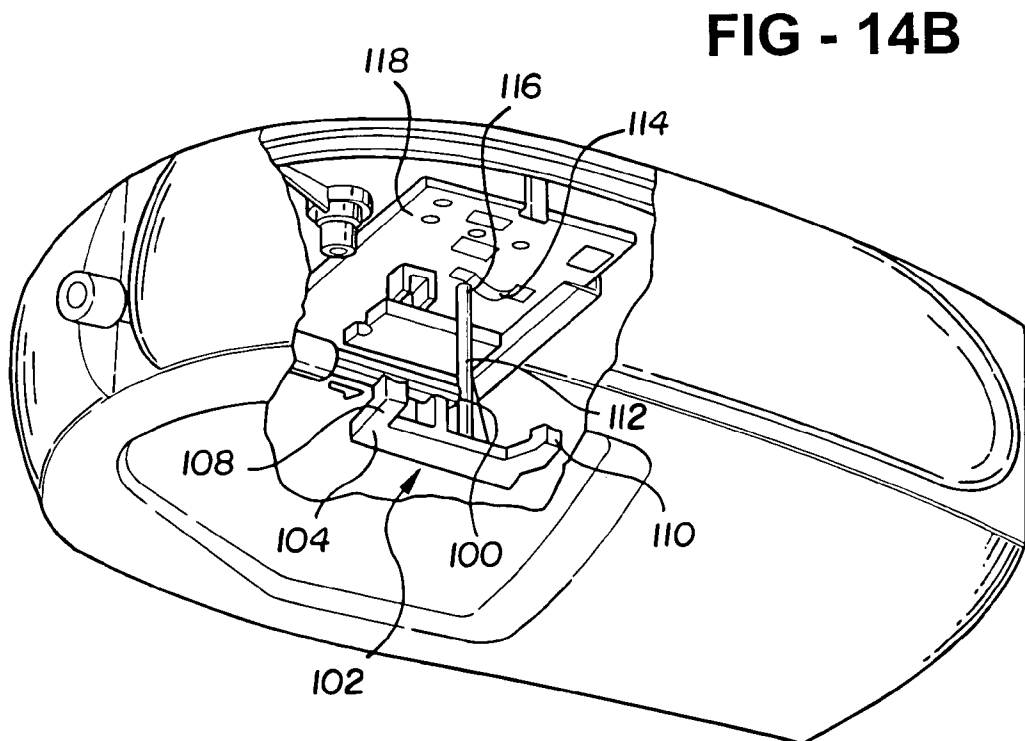
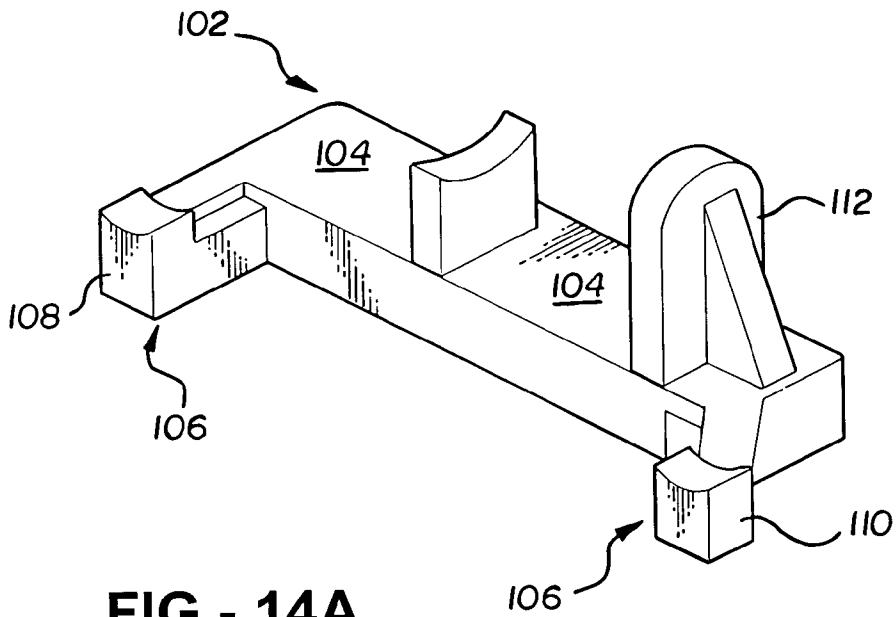


FIG - 13B



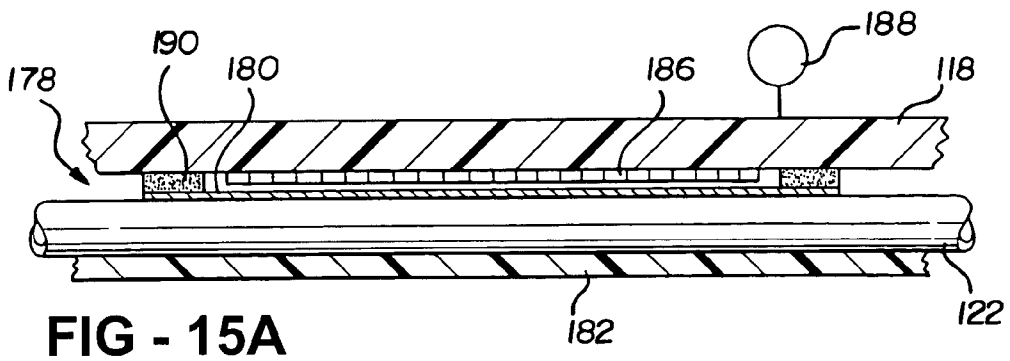


FIG - 15A

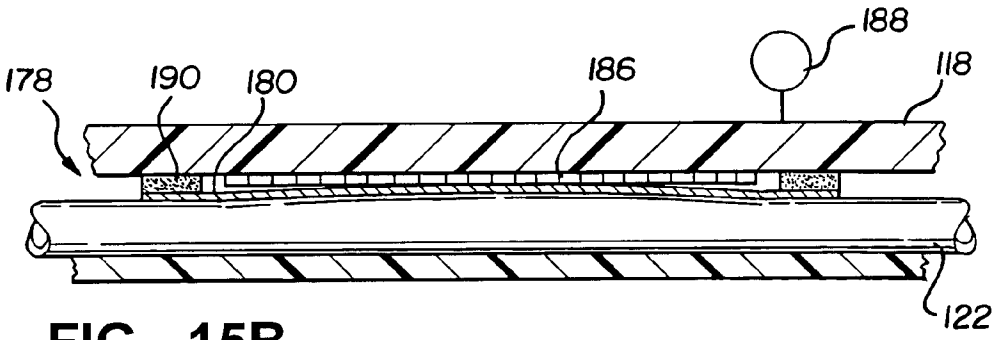


FIG - 15B

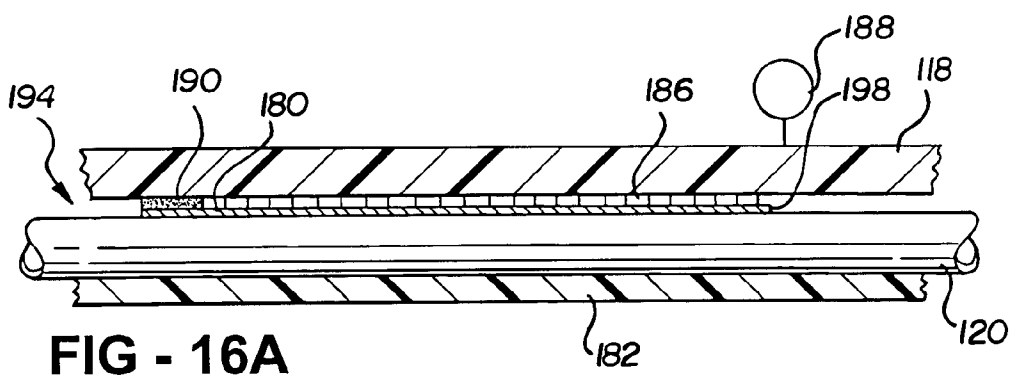


FIG - 16A

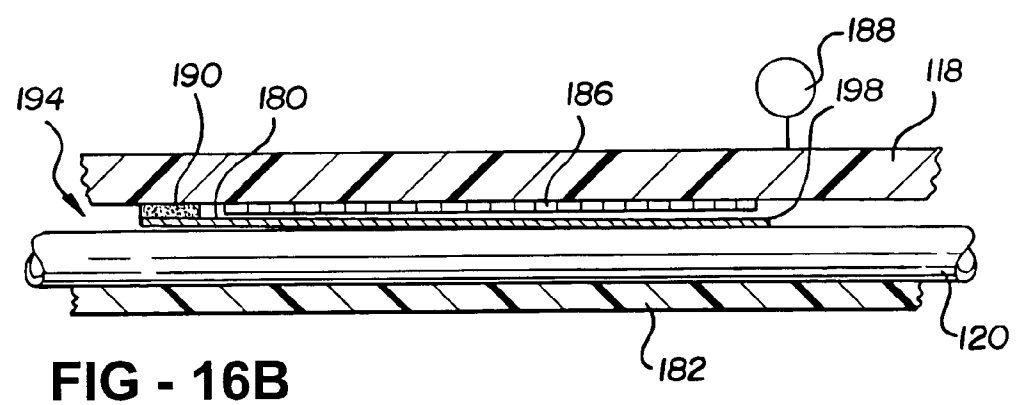


FIG - 16B

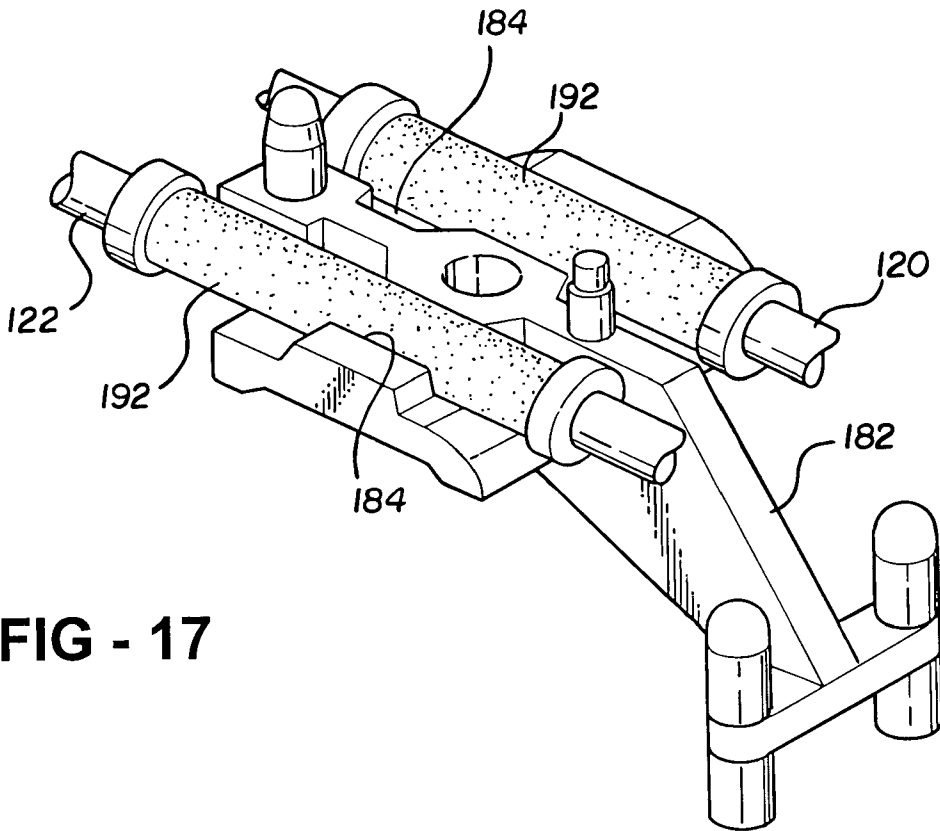


FIG - 17

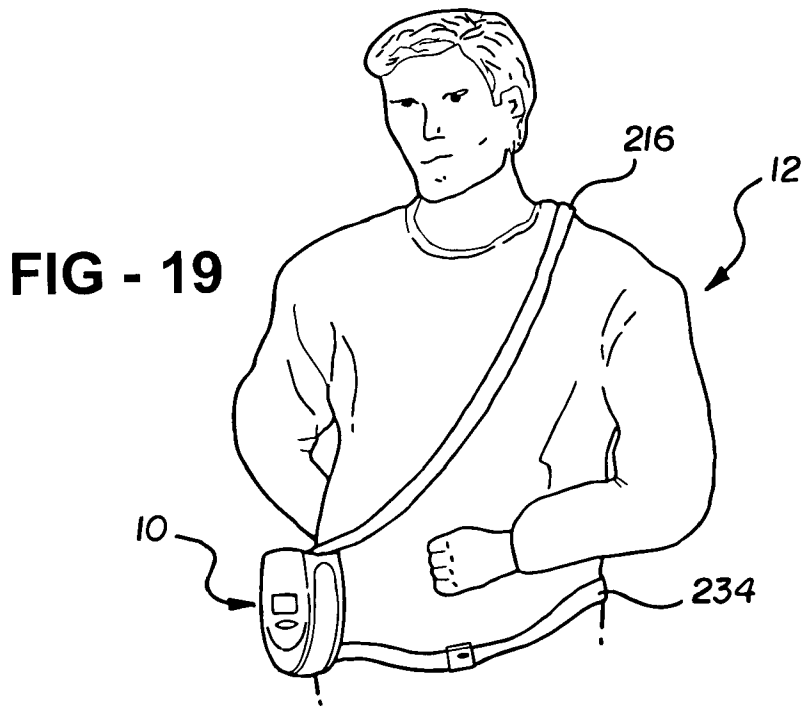
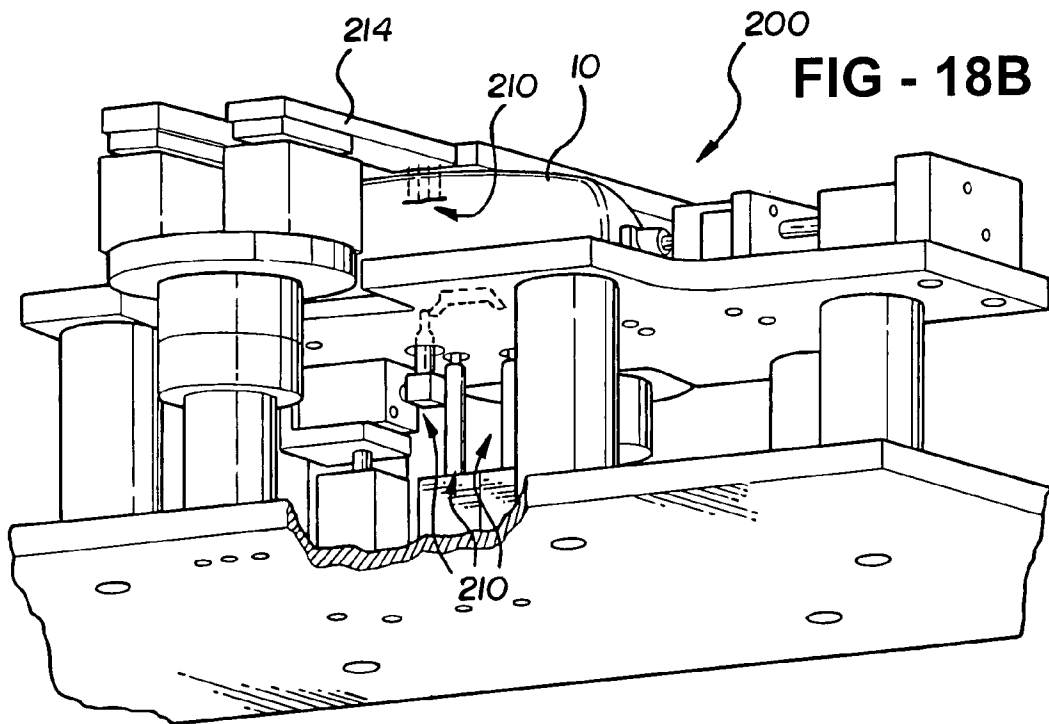
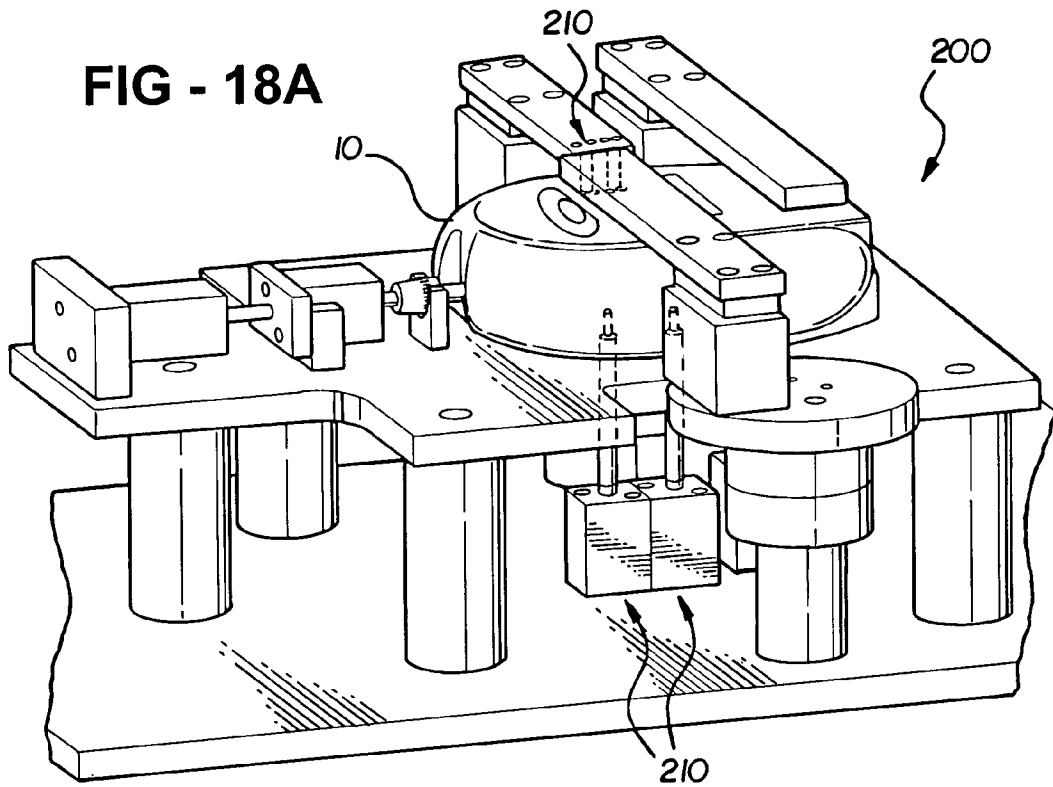


FIG - 19



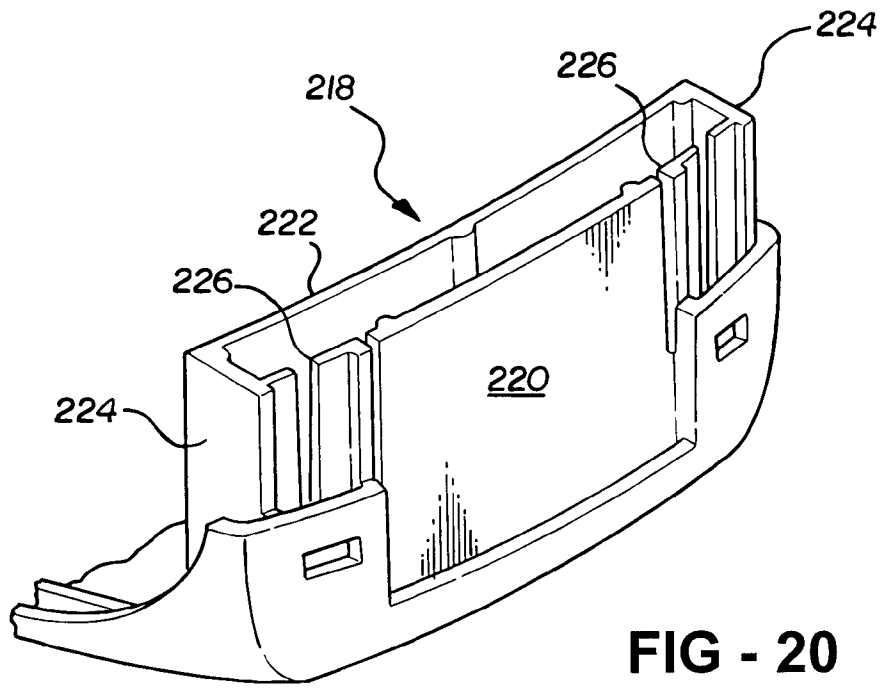


FIG - 20

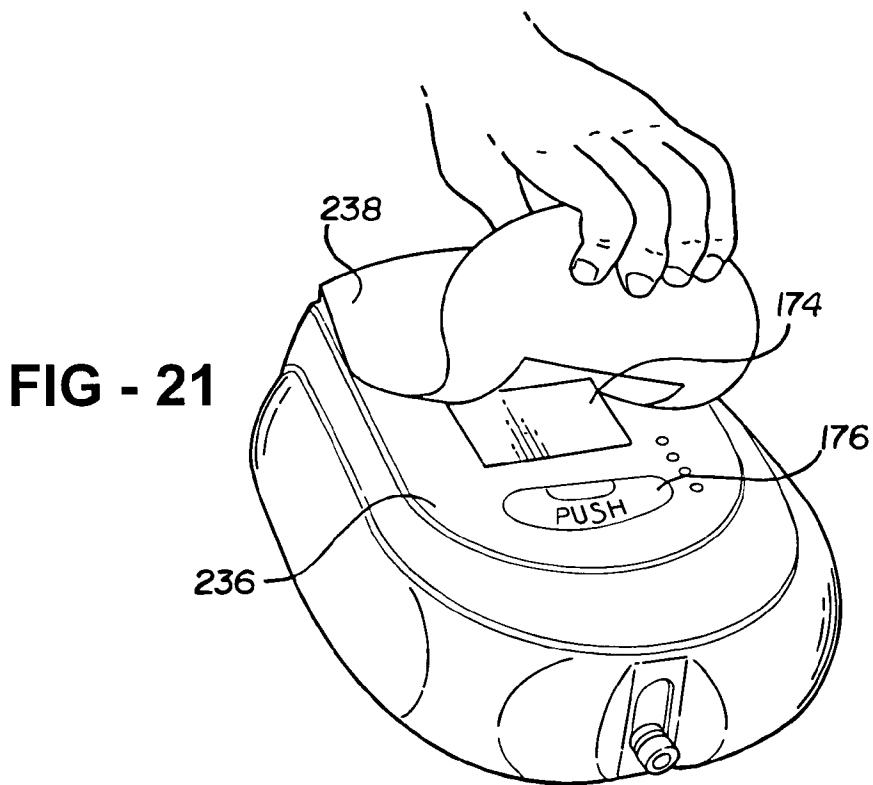


FIG - 21

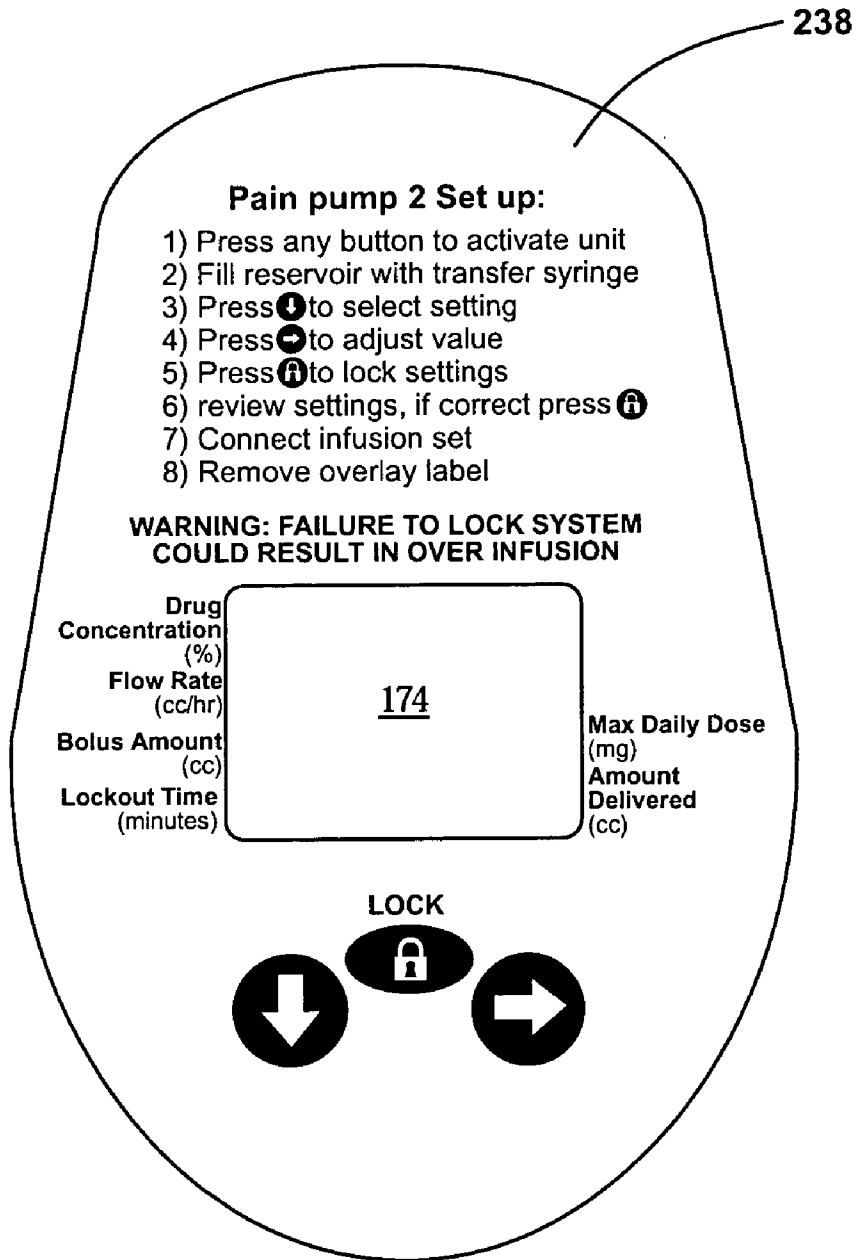


FIG - 22

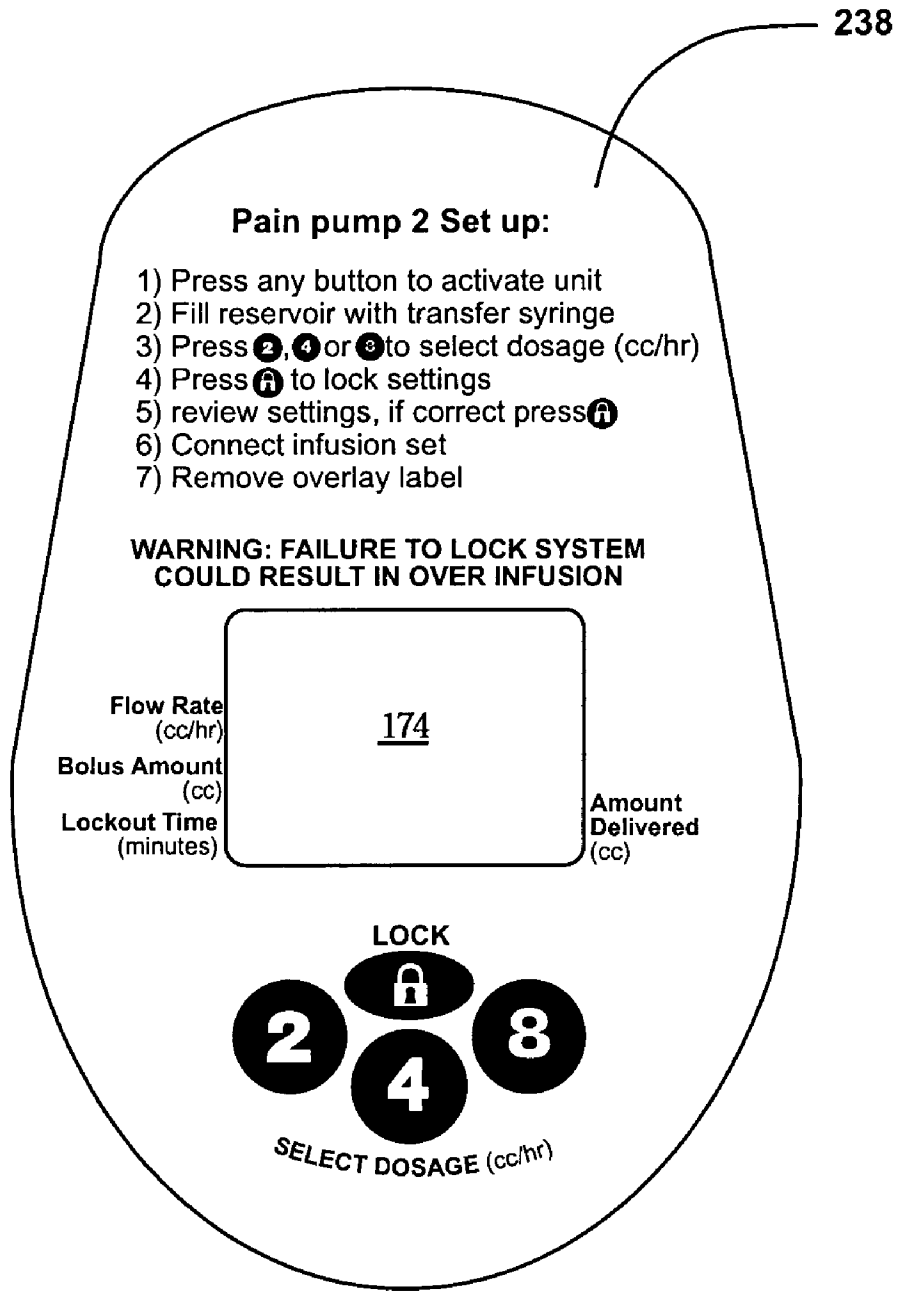


FIG - 23

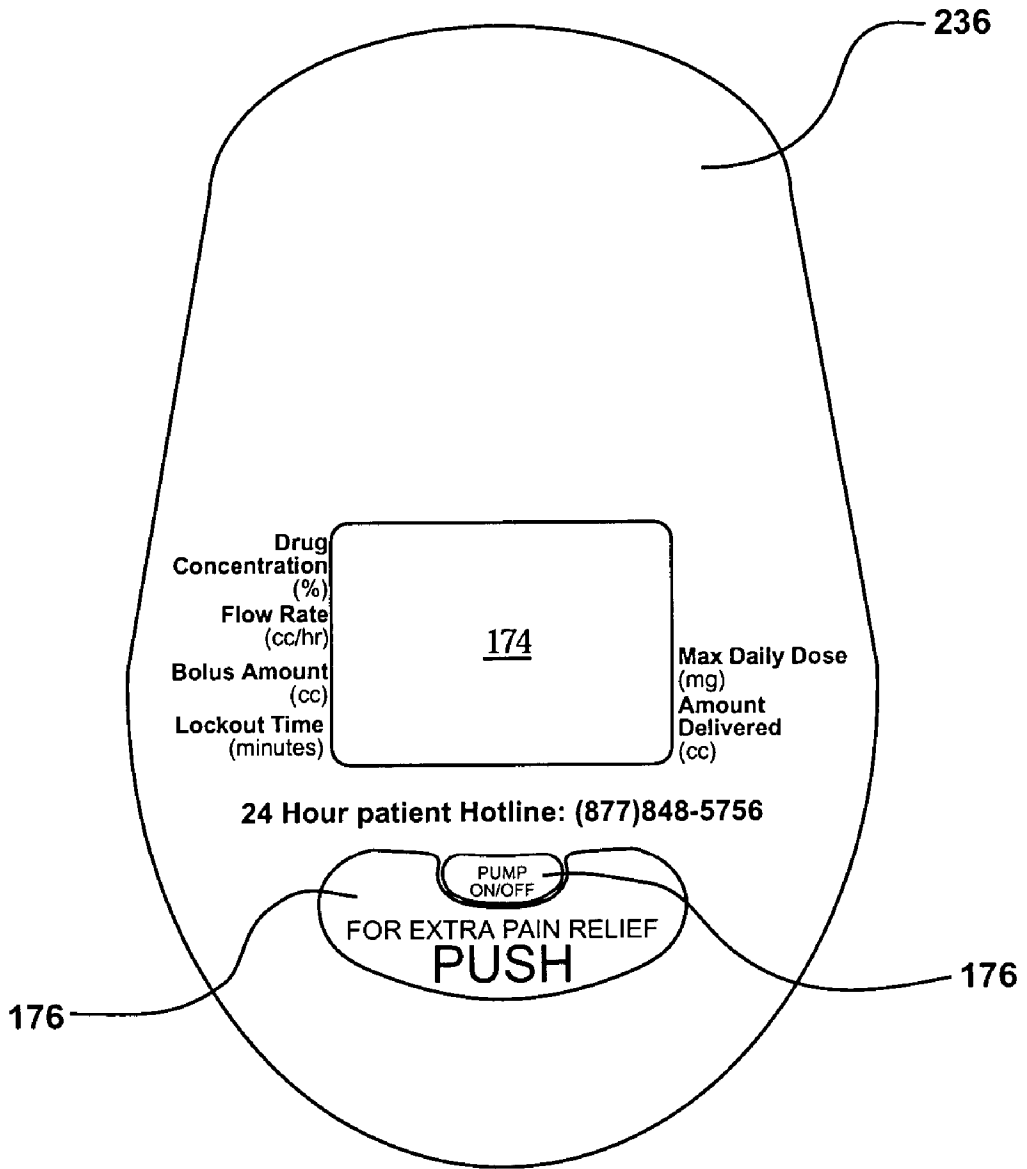


FIG - 24

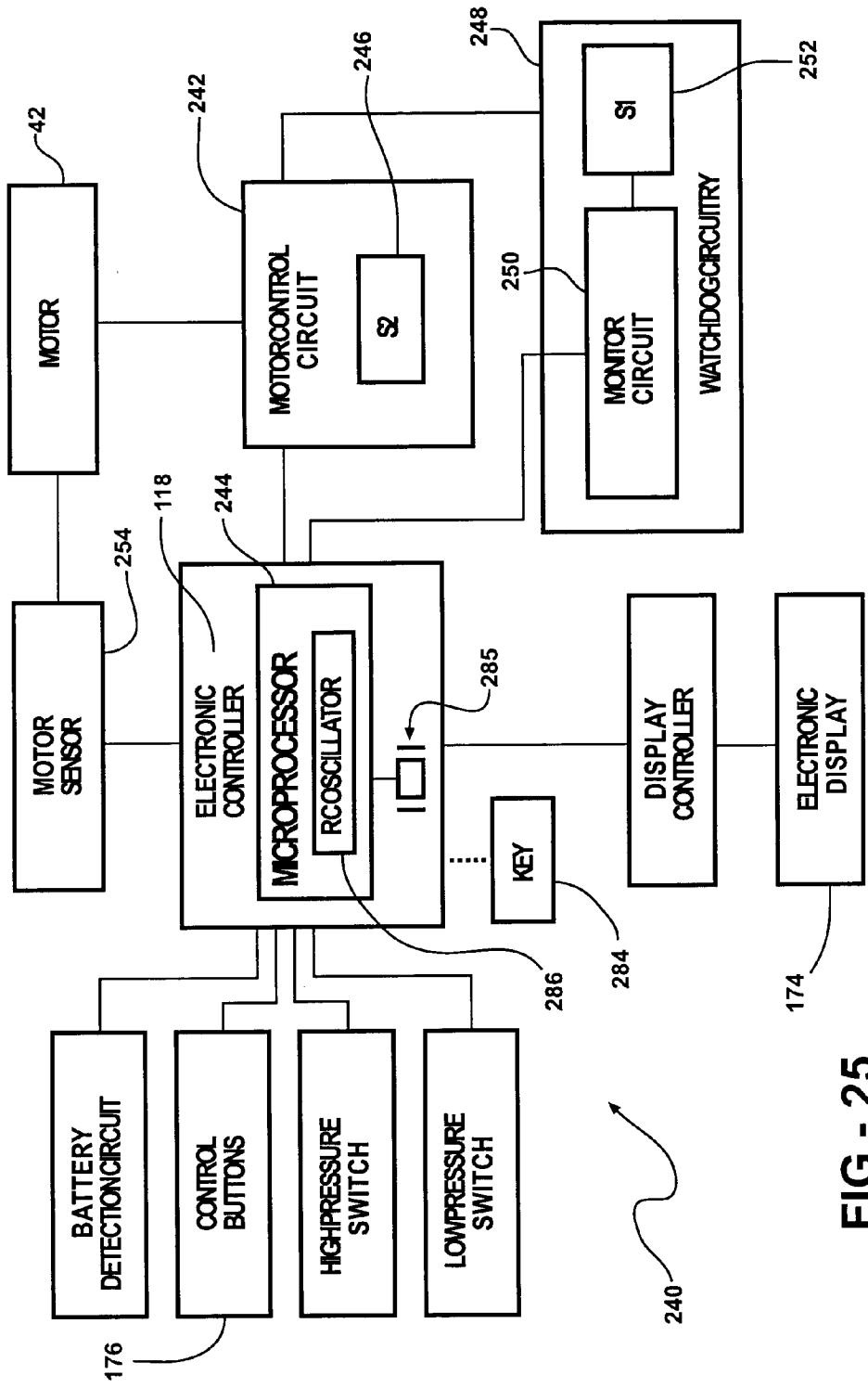


FIG - 25

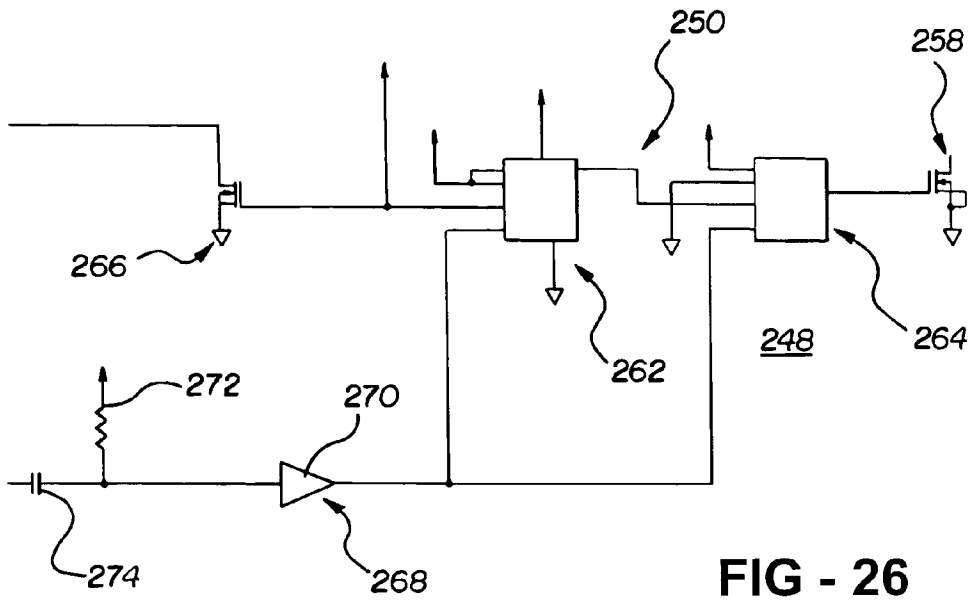


FIG - 26

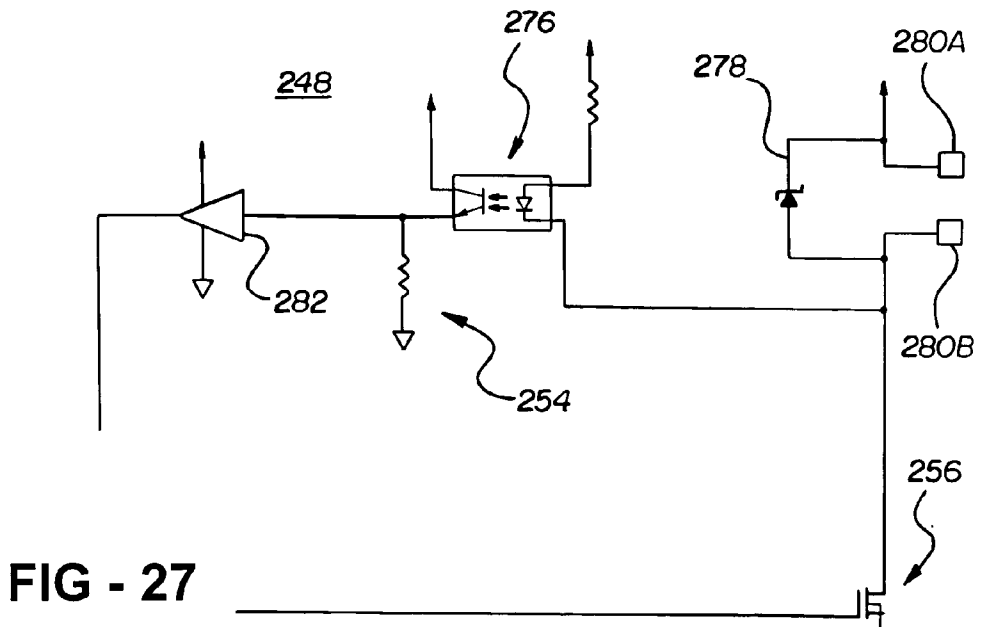


FIG - 27

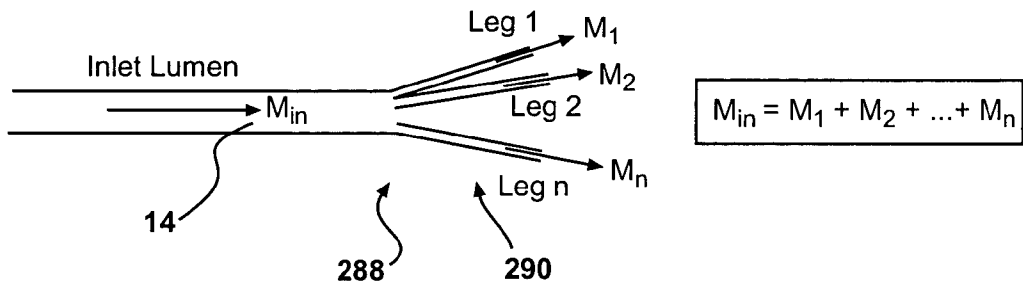


FIG - 28

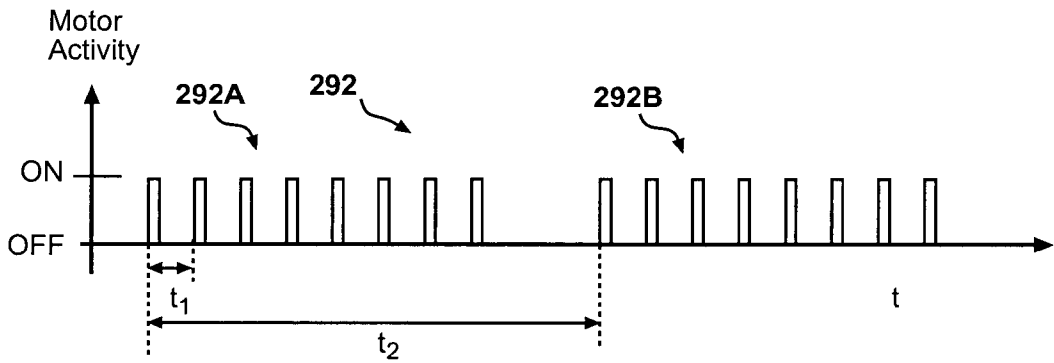


FIG - 29A

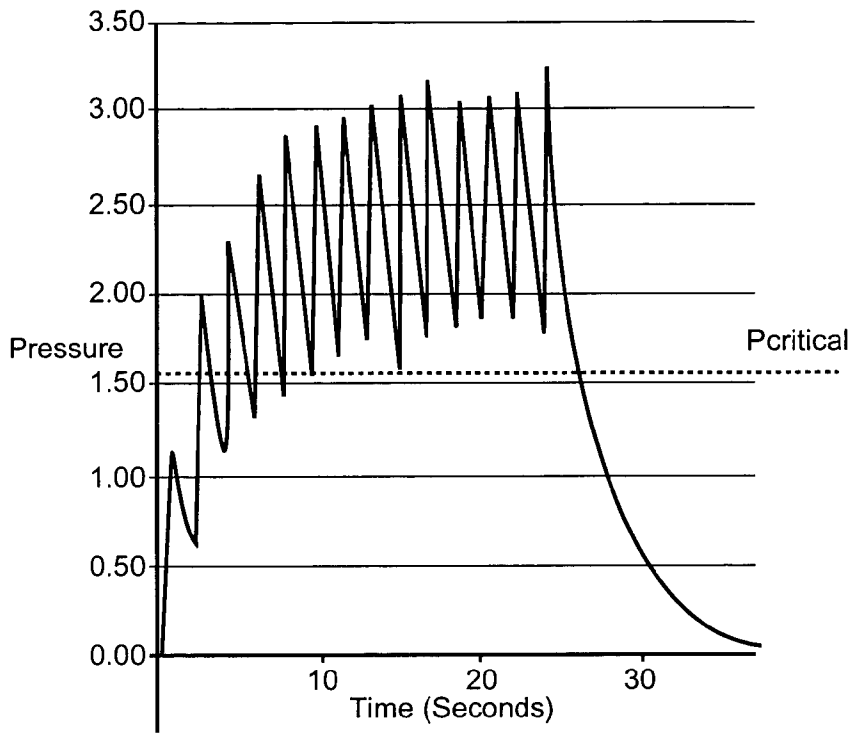


FIG - 29B

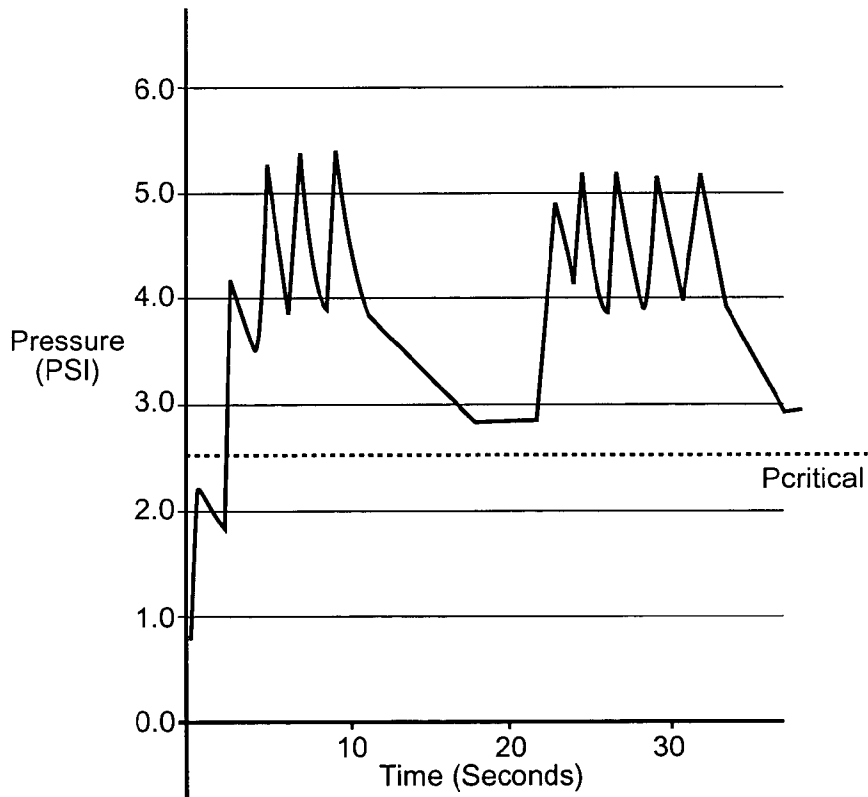


FIG - 29C

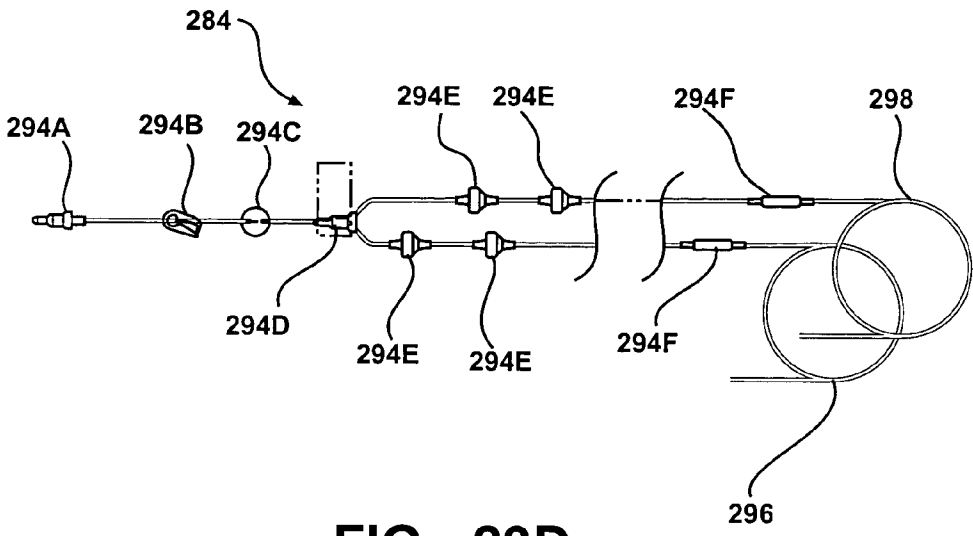


FIG - 29D

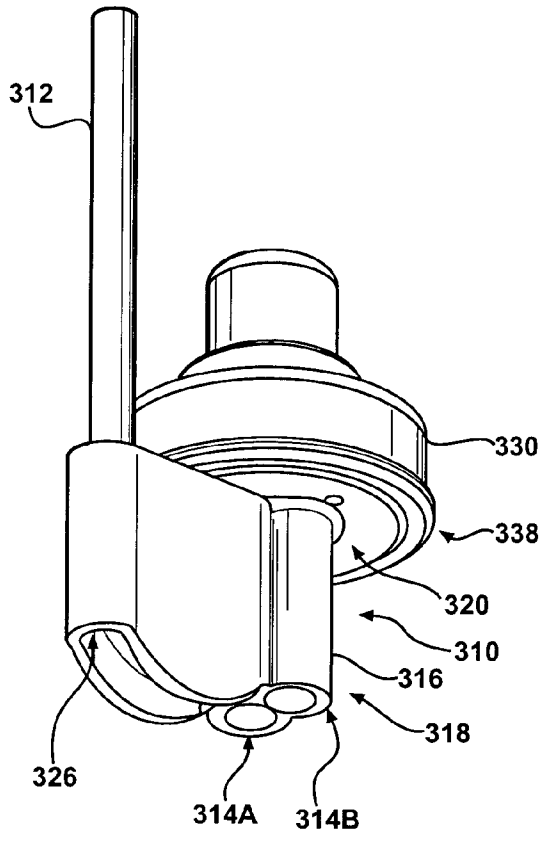


FIG - 30

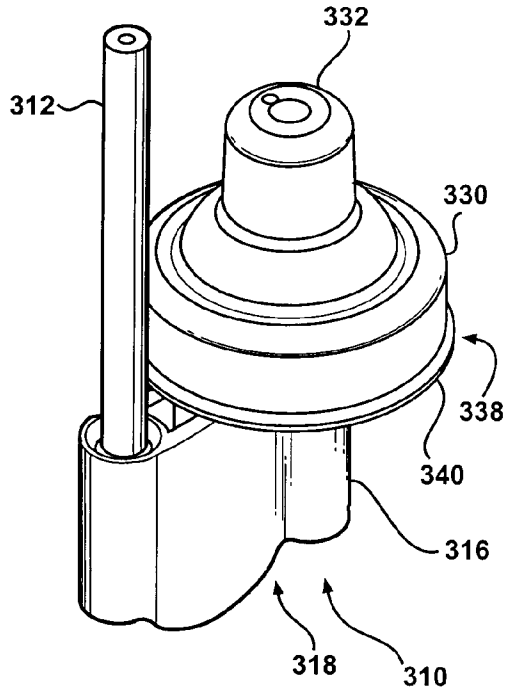


FIG - 31

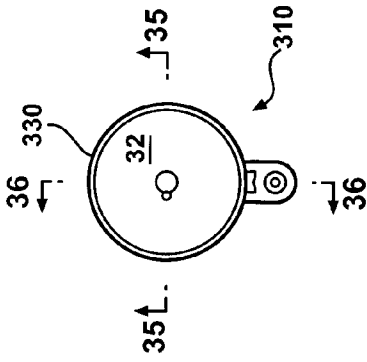


FIG - 32

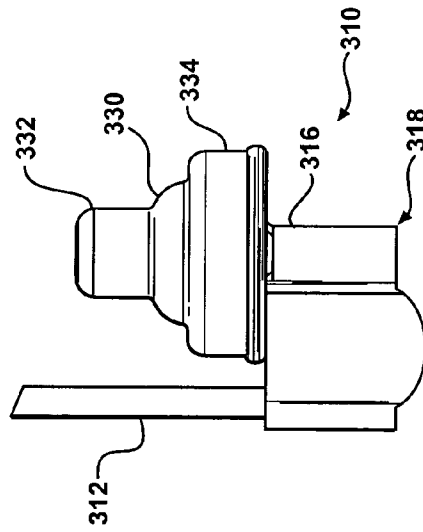


FIG - 33

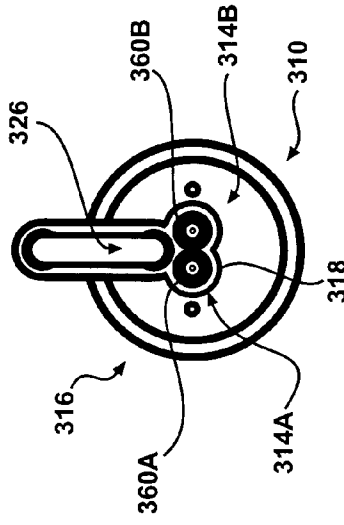


FIG - 34

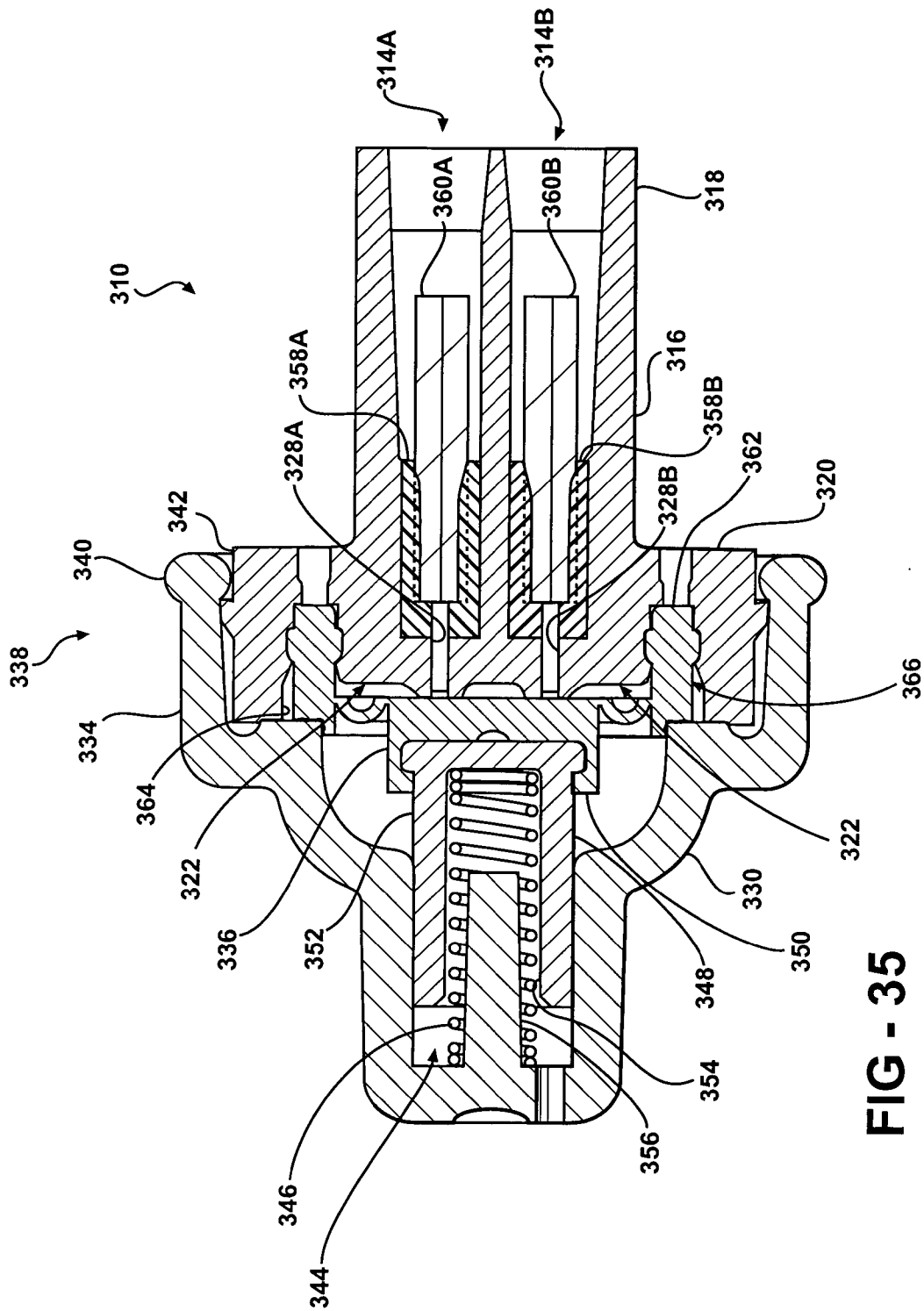


FIG - 35

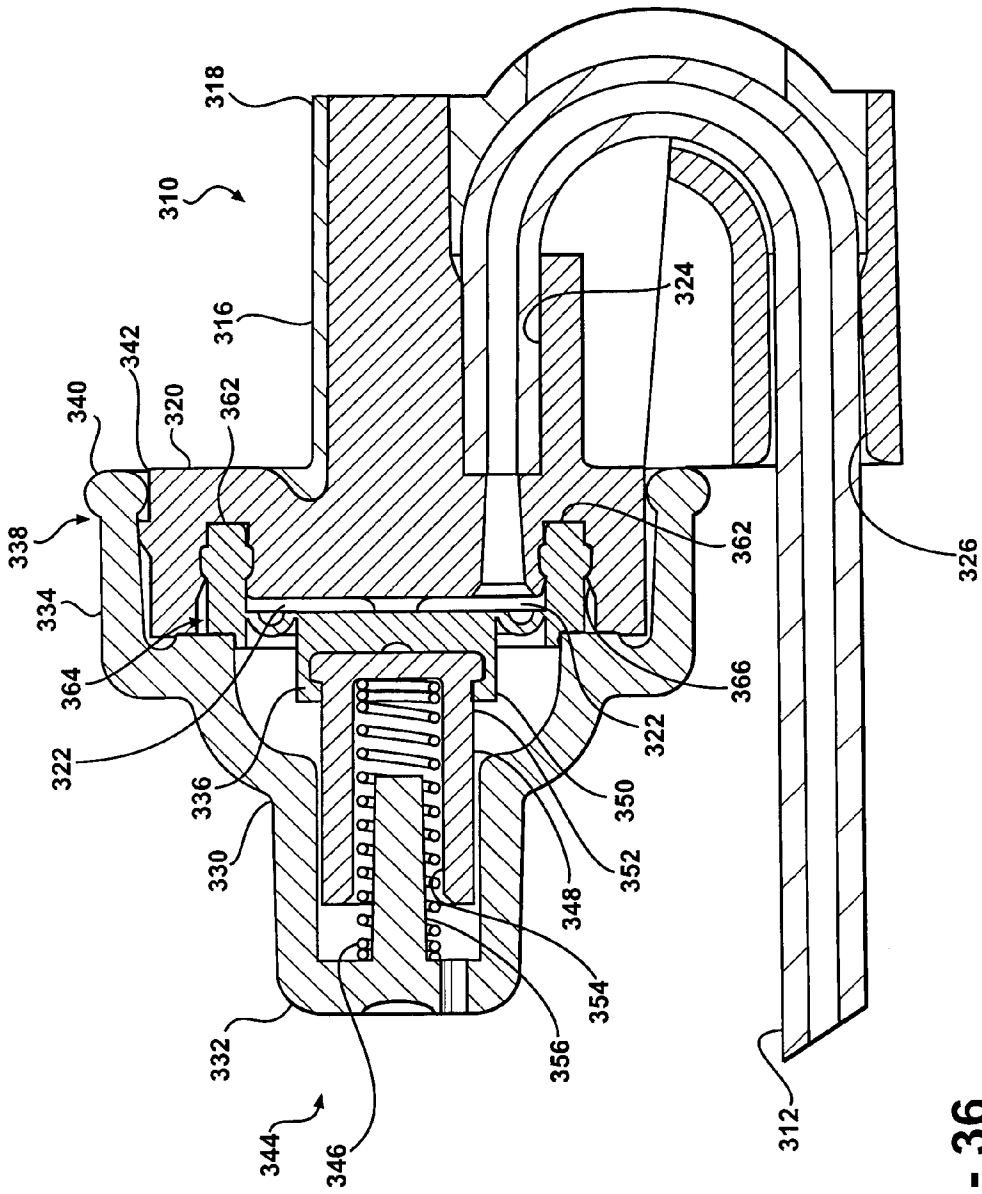


FIG - 36

INTEGRATED MEDICATION DELIVERY SYSTEM

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This patent application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/451,161 (“TWO SITE INFUSION APPARATUS”) filed Feb. 28, 2003 and is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/083,266, filed Feb. 23, 2002, which claims priority to and all advantages of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/271,187 which was filed on Feb. 23, 2001.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates generally to the delivery of a pulsatile fluid pulse, and more particularly to an apparatus for controllably dividing a pulsatile fluid flow into two or more pulsatile fluid flows.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Medication delivery systems are known in the art. Medication delivery systems are used to deliver pain control medication and other medications intra-operatively, subcutaneously, and percutaneously to a patient after a surgical, or some other medical, procedure.

[0004] It is sometimes desirable to deliver a fluid using a pulsatile fluid flow or series of pulses. For example, some medication delivery systems which utilize a series of pulsatile fluid pulses to deliver medication, are known in the art. Medication delivery systems may be used to deliver pain control medication and other medications intra-operatively or post-operatively, subcutaneously, and percutaneously to a patient after a surgical, or some other medical, procedure.

[0005] For example, U.S. Pat. No. 5,807,075 to Jacobsen et al. discloses a conventional medication delivery system that includes a base housing and a cassette. The base housing of the '075 patent houses electronic components, such as an electric motor, a power source, and an electronic controller, and the cassette of the '075 patent interacts with a supply of the medication to deliver the medication to the patient.

[0006] A further example of a conventional medication delivery system is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,650,469 to Berg et al. This patent discloses a medication delivery system that includes a control module and a reservoir module removably connected to the control module. The control module includes a pump mechanism, valves, a power source, electronic controls, and the like, and the reservoir module includes a container that supplies the medication to be delivered to the patient.

[0007] It is known to use an electric motor in such medication delivery systems, where a predetermined number at revolutions or cycles of the motor delivers a preset amount of medication. Such systems are known as positive displacement systems. In such systems, pressurization of the medication is a function of the restrictions in the flow path and the time dependent flow of medication through the system.

[0008] Generally, conventional medication delivery systems provide a flow of medication through an output tube which then is delivered to the patient, as required. However in some procedures, medication is required at two locations

with respect to the patient, for example, breast augmentation or reconstruction. Another such procedure where medication delivery is desirable at two sites is an autologous graft procedure where it is desirable to deliver medication at both the graft and the donor sites. If the medication provided by the delivery system is pumped through a “Y” connection, then there are several reasons that the medication may not be delivered to each site or location in the desired proportion. First, unequal pressure at the two infusion sites due to elevation or intracompartmental pressure sets up a siphon where flow occurs from one side to the other side in the period between pulses. Furthermore, natural or unintended variations in flow restriction between the two sides of the “Y” and/or the previously mentioned unequal infusion site pressures may shift the proportion of the flow split, as more flow will follow the path of decreased resistance. This is undesirable.

[0009] In a mechanical system experiencing laminar flow of a non-compressible fluid, a similar phenomenon occurs whereby the pressure between two points is directly proportional to the mass flow rate through the system and the flow restriction between the two points.

[0010] This can be expressed as $\Delta P = \dot{M}R$, where

[0011] ΔP = Pressure Differential (psi)

[0012] M = Mass Flow Rate (cc/sec)

[0013] R = Flow Restriction (psi/[cc/sec])

[0014] Similarly,

$$\dot{M} = \frac{\Delta P}{R}$$

[0015] In other words, the instantaneous flow rate in a single-lumen system is directly related to the instantaneous pressure between two points separated by a known flow restriction, and it is inversely proportional to the value of the restriction between those two points.

[0016] In a scenario where more than one distal site is linked to the fluid path, the overall flow rate to both sites as well as the percent flow reaching each site is also related to pressure and restriction. Though capacitance in the system may cause a phase shift in the instantaneous flow rate from location to location, the overall flow from the lumen upstream of the branching node will equal the sum of the overall flow coming through each outlet lumen (leg).

[0017] In this scenario, the instantaneous flow rate along each leg will be directly related to the difference in pressure between the branching node and the distal outlet of the leg, and it will be inversely proportional to the flow restriction along that leg. The mass flow rate through any given outlet lumen may be calculated as follows:

$$\dot{M}_i = \frac{\Delta P_i}{R_i} = \frac{P_0 - P_i}{R_i}$$

[0018] where

$$[0019] \Delta P_i = P_0 - P_i$$

[0020] P_0 = Pressure at branching node (psi gage)

[0021] P_i = Pressure at outlet of lumen i (psi gage)

[0022] R_i = Flow Restriction of outlet lumen i (psi/cc/sec)

[0023] The total flow through all legs is then

$$\dot{M}_{total} = \sum_{i=1}^n \dot{M}_i = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{P_0 - P_i}{R_i}$$

[0024] and the percent flow to any given outlet lumen is

$$\% F = (100) \frac{\dot{M}_i}{\dot{M}_{total}}$$

[0025] If a pump with a pulsatile flow delivery system is connected to a fluid delivery path, and it is desired to controllably divide the flow between the multiple outlet sites, the flow restrictions in each outlet lumen may be designed so as to facilitate the desired flow distribution. With each pulse of fluid flow from the pump, the pressure in the inlet lumen and the branching node will rise—with a lower system capacitance before the node leading to a more steep pressure rise. After the pump finishes introducing fluid to the path, a pressure drop will be observed as fluid drains through the outlet lumens, emptying the fluid stored by the capacitance of the system. As stated before, the instantaneous flow rate during this process is related to the pressure differential and the flow restriction; as the pressure drops asymptotically to an equilibrium level, so will the flow decrease proportionally.

[0026] If the pressure at all outlet sites is the same, then ΔP will be the same for each outlet lumen and the flow distribution may be directly controlled by the flow restrictors alone.

[0027] However, if the pressures of the outlets are not equal and not constant, then additional measures are required to equally or accurately distribute the flow as desired to all sites. This can be accomplished by making the pressure at the node high enough that the variation in pressures at each site do not contribute greatly to percent variation in pressure differential. In other words, if $P_1 \neq P_2$ but $P_0 \gg P_1$ and $P_0 \gg P_2$, then $\Delta P_1 = \Delta P_2$. If ΔP_1 and ΔP_2 are then similar, the restriction level of each lumen may once again be relied upon to provide the control necessary to balance the flow percentage to each lumen outlet.

[0028] However, in the case of a pulsatile pump, the time-dependent pressure profile may not provide the necessary conditions to keep $P_0 \gg P_1$ and $P_0 \gg P_2$. A substantial portion of fluid flow occurs as the pressure profile drops during the drain cycle mentioned above, and as the pressure drops, the ΔP_i of the various paths will deviate farther and farther from each other, in relation to the difference in P_i at each outlet location.

[0029] One solution would be to provide a check valve in each leg after the “Y” connection. This solution presents several problems, namely, there is a time delay added by the opening and closing of the check valve and differences in manufacturing tolerances contributing to the delay may also lead to uneven delivery of the medication. Furthermore, most check valves restrict flow when open, and unequal or uncontrollable variations in this restriction would lead to unequal flow.

[0030] Another solution would be to provide a large fluid resistor (small orifice) in each leg. Correctly sizing this orifice would cause the pressure to rise substantially higher than the downstream pressure differences. This pressure could be driven up over several pulses. If the pressure remained higher than the highest downstream pressure, no backflow due to siphoning could occur. Furthermore, the difference in the pressure drop in the two downstream legs could be controlled to remain relatively equal. This solution presents several problems. First, if the pump has a user selectable flow rate, the size of the glass orifice must be fixed to work with the lowest possible flow rate. If a higher flow rate were then selected, the level of restriction would cause an increase in pressure beyond acceptable limits for safety or function the system or its components, including features such as an occlusion sensor.

[0031] The present invention is aimed at one or more of the problems set forth above.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES

[0032] In one aspect of the present invention, a medication delivery system is provided. The system includes a reservoir for storing a supply of medication and a pump assembly coupled to the reservoir. The pump assembly has a pump inlet and a pump outlet and is controllable to provide a flow of medication in the form of a series of pulses. The pump outlet is subdivided into a plurality of legs. A controller is coupled to the pump assembly for controlling the pump assembly and receives a desired flow of medication and responsively controls the pump assembly to provide a series of pulses of medication to provide the desired flow of medication. The series of pulses are determined to provide an outlet pressure at the pump outlet adapted to reduce an effect of any differential pressure between the legs.

[0033] In another aspect of the present invention, a method for delivering medication using a medication delivery system is provided. The method includes the steps of storing a supply of medication, receiving a desired flow of medication, and providing a flow of medication from the supply of medication in the form of a series of pulses. The flow is provided through an outlet and subdivided into a plurality of legs. The series of pulses are determined to provide an outlet pressure at the pump outlet adapted to reduce an effect of any differential pressure between the legs.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0034] Other advantages of the present invention will be readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

[0035] FIG. 1A is a perspective view of an integrated medication delivery system according to the subject invention with an infusion tube set;

[0036] FIG. 1B is a perspective view of an underside of the system illustrating a system mounting clip for securing the system to a patient;

[0037] FIG. 2A is an exploded perspective view of the system illustrating a medication reservoir, a base housing, reservoir casings, a pump assembly, and a carrying strap of the system;

[0038] FIG. 2B is an exploded perspective view of the system illustrating a removable overlay label, a patient label, and a top housing of the base housing for assembly to the system;

[0039] FIG. 3 is an exploded perspective view of the system illustrating a port, a plunger, the pump assembly including a motor and first and second pinch levers, an actuator, and the base housing including an integral storage cavity for the carrying strap;

[0040] FIG. 4 is an exploded perspective view of the system illustrating an underside of the top housing, at least one control button, an electronic controller and display, and a detection film having a cantilever portion;

[0041] FIG. 5 is an exploded perspective view of the pump assembly;

[0042] FIG. 6A is a partially cross-sectional side view of a cam shaft, the pump assembly, and the first and second pinch levers illustrating the pinch levers in a closed position to pinch medication inlet and outlet tubes;

[0043] FIG. 6B is a partially cross-sectional side view of the system, as disclosed in FIG. 6A, illustrating the first pinch lever in an open position and the second pinch lever in a closed position to draw medication into the pump assembly;

[0044] FIG. 6C is a partially cross-sectional side view of the system, as disclosed in FIG. 6A, illustrating the first pinch lever in a closed position and the second pinch lever in an open position to displace medication from the pump assembly;

[0045] FIG. 6D is a partially cross-sectional side view of the system, as disclosed in FIG. 6A, in combination with the plunger and the actuator, with the actuator retaining the pinch levers in the open position;

[0046] FIG. 7 is a partially cross-sectional side view of the pump assembly;

[0047] FIG. 8 is an exploded perspective view of the port and the plunger;

[0048] FIG. 9 is an enlarged partially cross-sectional top view of the plunger disposed in the port illustrating a first, second, and third fluid connector;

[0049] FIG. 10 is a partially cross-sectional side view taken along line 10-10 in FIG. 9 illustrating a seal disposed about the plunger being depressed by leak ribs extending from the port;

[0050] FIG. 11A is a partially cross-sectional top view of the system with the plunger in an off-position;

[0051] FIG. 11B is a partially cross-sectional view of the port and the plunger disposed in the port in the off-position from FIG. 11A;

[0052] FIG. 12A is a partially cross-sectional top view of the system with the plunger in a fill-position such that the system can be sterilized and filled with medication;

[0053] FIG. 12B is a partially cross-sectional view of the port and the plunger disposed in the port in the fill-position from FIG. 12A additionally illustrating a syringe for moving the plunger into the fill-position and a fluid cap for sterilization;

[0054] FIG. 13A is a partially cross-sectional top view of the system with the plunger in a fluid delivery-position such that the medication can be delivered to the patient;

[0055] FIG. 13B is a partially cross-sectional view of the port and the plunger disposed in the port in the fluid delivery-position from FIG. 13A additionally illustrating a connector from the infusion tubing set;

[0056] FIG. 14A is an enlarged perspective view of the actuator;

[0057] FIG. 14B is a perspective view of an alternative embodiment for the actuator including a control contact disposed at a distal end of an actuation arm;

[0058] FIG. 15A is a partially cross-sectional side view of a blockage detection system according to the subject invention when the medication outlet tube is in a normal condition;

[0059] FIG. 15B is a partially cross-sectional side view of the blockage detection system of FIG. 15A when the medication outlet tube is in an expanded condition due to a blockage;

[0060] FIG. 16A is a partially cross-sectional side view of an empty detection system according to the subject invention when the medication inlet tube is in a normal condition;

[0061] FIG. 16B is a partially cross-sectional side view of the empty detection system of FIG. 16A when the medication inlet tube is in a collapsed condition due to a depletion in the supply of the medication;

[0062] FIG. 17 is a perspective view of a support platform with the medication inlet and outlet tubes which also illustrates alternative embodiments for the blockage detection system and the empty detection system where a coating is applied to the medication inlet and outlet tubes;

[0063] FIG. 18A is a top perspective view of the system engaged with a testing instrument for confirming proper operation of the system after assembly and prior to use;

[0064] FIG. 18B is a bottom perspective view of the system engaged with a second testing instrument for confirming proper operation of the system after assembly and prior to use;

[0065] FIG. 19 is a perspective view of the patient using the carrying strap as a shoulder strap to carry the system;

[0066] FIG. 20 is an enlarged top perspective view of the integral storage cavity defined within the base housing of the system;

[0067] FIG. 21 is a perspective view of a surgeon or patient removing the removable overlay label to reveal the patient label;

[0068] FIG. 22 is a plan view of one embodiment of the removable overlay label having a one version of a first set of explanatory indicia;

[0069] FIG. 23 is a plan view of a further embodiment of the removable overlay label having another version of a first set of explanatory indicia;

[0070] FIG. 24 is a plan view of the patient label having a second set of explanatory indicia;

[0071] FIG. 25 is a block diagram schematically illustrating a control system for the integrated medication delivery system of the subject invention;

[0072] FIG. 26 is an electrical diagram illustrating portions of a watchdog circuit of the control system; and

[0073] FIG. 27 is an electrical diagram illustrating further portions of the watchdog circuit of the control system.

[0074] FIG. 28 is graphical illustration of a tube set divided into a plurality of legs, according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0075] FIG. 29A is a graph illustrating a series of pulses divided into first and second groups, according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0076] FIG. 29B is a graph of an exemplary pressure profile during a group of pulses in which the system pressure is allowed to drop to the outlet pressure after the group;

[0077] FIG. 29C is a graph of an exemplary pressure profile during 2 groups of pulses in which a mechanism is in place to hold system pressure at or above a predetermined level after the first group;

[0078] FIG. 29D is a diagrammatical illustration of a tube set having a Y-divider, at least one check valve and a flow restrictor in each leg, according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0079] FIG. 30 is a first isometric view of a two site infusion apparatus, according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0080] FIG. 31 is second isometric view of the two site infusion apparatus of FIG. 1;

[0081] FIG. 32 is a top down view of the two site infusion apparatus of FIG. 1;

[0082] FIG. 33 is a side view of the two site infusion apparatus of FIG. 1;

[0083] FIG. 34 is a bottom view of the two site infusion apparatus of FIG. 1;

[0084] FIG. 35 is a first cut-away view of the two site infusion apparatus of FIG. 1; and,

[0085] FIG. 36 is a second cut-away view of the two site infusion apparatus of FIG. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0086] Referring to the Figures, wherein like numerals indicate like or corresponding parts throughout the several

views, an integrated medication delivery system 10 is generally disclosed at 10. The integrated medication delivery system 10, hereinafter described as the system 10, delivers medication to a patient 12 (refer to FIG. 19). More specifically, the system 10 is primarily used throughout the medical profession to deliver pain control medication and other medications to the patient 12 after a surgical, or some other medical, procedure. As disclosed in FIG. 1B, the system 10 is used in combination with an infusion tube set 14 to deliver the medication to the patient 12. The infusion tube set 14 is described below.

[0087] The system 10 of the subject invention is also suitable for complete sterilization by a sterilization fluid including, but not limited to, ethylene oxide (EtO) gas. Although not ideal, certain liquids may even be used to sterilize the system 10. For descriptive purposes only, the terminology of "medication" and "sterilization" fluid may also be described throughout simply as a fluid.

[0088] Referring primarily to FIGS. 2A-3, the system 10 includes a base housing 16. The base housing 16 is further defined as a bottom housing 18, a middle housing 20 mounted to the bottom housing 18 and a top housing 22, i.e., a cover. The housings 18, 20, 22 are preferably mounted together via screws 23. The system 10 also includes a medication reservoir 24 disposed about the base housing 16. More specifically, the reservoir 24 is disposed about the middle housing 20. The reservoir 24 stores the supply of medication that is to be delivered to the patient 12. Preferably, the reservoir 24 is formed of a flexible, yet durable plastic material. The system 10 further includes a reservoir casing 26 disposed between the bottom and top housings 18, 22. The reservoir casing 26 at least partially surrounds the reservoir 24 to protect the medication that is to be delivered to the patient 12. The preferred embodiment of the subject invention includes two reservoir casings 26 that surround the reservoir 24 to protect the medication. Of course, it is to be understood that the reservoir casing 26 may be a unitary component and still adequately surround the reservoir 24 to protect the medication. The reservoir casing 26 is particularly useful when the patient 12 is carrying the system 10. Carrying of the system 10 is described below.

[0089] Referring primarily to FIGS. 2A, 3, and 5-6D, a pump assembly 28 is supported by the base housing 16. Specifically, the pump assembly 28 is mounted to the bottom housing 18. As understood by those skilled in the art, the pump assembly 28 is responsible for delivering the medication to the patient 12. As described below, the pump assembly 28 also serves to prevent inadvertent delivery of the medication to the patient 12.

[0090] As disclosed best in FIG. 5, the pump assembly 28 includes a pump housing 30 having a pump inlet 32 and a pump outlet 34. The pump housing 30 also has at least one detent 36. The at least one detent 36 is described below. The pump inlet 32 and the pump outlet 34 alternate between an open and a closed state to deliver the medication to the patient 12. Referring now to FIGS. 3, and 6A-6D, a first pinch lever 38, also referred to as a pinch valve, is disposed at the pump inlet 32 and a second pinch lever 40 or valve is disposed at the pump outlet 34. The first pinch lever 38 functions to alternate the pump inlet 32 between the open and the closed state, and the second pinch lever 40 functions to alternate the pump outlet 34 between the open and the closed state.

[0091] As FIGS. 6B and 6C disclose, the first pinch lever 38 is moveable between an open position (FIG. 6B) and a closed position (FIG. 6C) to control a flow of the medication into the pump housing 30 through the pump inlet 32, and the second pinch lever 40 is moveable between an open position (FIG. 6C) and a closed position (FIG. 6B) to control a flow of the medication from the pump housing 30 through the pump outlet 34. The pump assembly 28 further includes a motor 42 that is operatively engaged to the first and second pinch levers 38, 40 for moving these levers 38, 40 into the open position such that the medication can be delivered to the patient 12. The motor 42 includes a driving output shaft, not shown in the Figures, for driving the pump assembly 28. A power source 43 is integrated into the system 10 to provide power to the system 10, including the motor 42. Preferably, the power source includes batteries 45 and battery contacts 47.

[0092] As shown in FIG. 6A, the first pinch lever 38 is normally-biased to maintain the pump inlet 32 in the closed state and the second pinch lever 40 is normally-biased to maintain the pump outlet 34 in the closed state. To accomplish this, at least one biasing device 44 is included in the pump assembly 28. Preferably, the at least one biasing device 44 is a compression spring as shown, but not numbered, throughout the Figures. However, it is to be understood that the at least one biasing device 44 may be any device that is suitable for normally-biasing at least one, if not both, of the first and second pinch levers 38, 40 into the closed position. The at least one biasing device 44 engages at least one of the first and second pinch levers 38, 40 and works in conjunction with the motor 42 to normally bias at least one of the first and second pinch levers 38, 40 into the closed position. As such, if the motor 42 fails during delivery of the medication, then the first and second pinch levers 38, 40 are biased into and thereafter maintained in the closed position to prevent the inadvertent delivery of the medication to the patient 12. The motor 42 is able to move the first and second pinch levers 38, 40 into the open position despite the bias of the at least one biasing device 44.

[0093] In the preferred embodiment of the subject invention, the at least one biasing device 44 comprises a first 46 and a second 48 biasing device. The first biasing device 46, preferably a compression spring, engages the first pinch lever 38, and the second biasing device 48, also preferably a compression spring, engages the second pinch lever 40. As disclosed in FIG. 6A, the first and second biasing devices 46, 48 maintain the first and second pinch levers 38, 40 in the closed position during failure of the motor 42 thereby preventing the inadvertent delivery of the medication to the patient 12. More specifically, the closed first pinch lever 38 prevents the medication from being drawn into the pump assembly 28 through the pump inlet 32, and the closed second pinch lever 40 prevents the medication from being displaced from the pump assembly 28 through the pump outlet 34.

[0094] Referring primarily to FIGS. 5-6D, to effectively operate the system 10 and move the first and second pinch levers 38, 40 for delivery of the medication to the patient 12, the pump assembly 28 of the subject invention further includes a cam shaft 50 supported on the pump housing 30. The cam shaft 50 is geared to the motor 42, via a number of

gears 52, to operatively engage the motor 42 to the first and second pinch levers 38, 40. The cam shaft 50 is described in greater detail below.

[0095] As disclosed best in FIGS. 5 and 7, the pump assembly 28 also includes a piston 54 disposed in the pump housing 30. The motor 42 moves the piston 54 within the pump housing 30 to draw the medication into the pump housing 30 when the first pinch lever 38 is in the open position and the second pinch lever 40 is in the closed position (see FIG. 6B). The motor 42 also moves the piston 54 within the pump housing 30 to displace the medication from the pump housing 30 when the first pinch lever 38 is in the closed position and the second pinch lever 40 is in the open position (see FIG. 6C). The piston 54 includes an actuation end 56 and a pumping end 58. A diaphragm seal 60 is disposed at the pumping end 58 of the piston 54. The diaphragm seal 60 is secured at the pumping end 58 of the piston 54 by a piston cap 62. The piston 54 also includes at least one slot 62 at the actuation end 56. The at least one detent 36 of the pump housing 30, originally introduced above, engages the at least one slot 62 at the actuation end 56 of the piston 54 to prevent unwanted rotation of the piston 54 as the piston 54 is moved within the pump housing 30 by the motor 42 and the cam shaft 50.

[0096] The cam shaft 50 supports first and second outside cams 64, 66 and an inside cam 68. The inside cam 68 of the cam shaft 50 is disposed between the first and second outside cams 64, 66. The first outside cam 64 engages the first pinch lever 38 to move the first pinch lever 38 between the open and closed position, and the second outside cam 66 engages the second pinch lever 40 to move the second pinch lever 40 between the open and closed positions. The inside cam 68 engages the actuation end 56 of the piston 54 to move the piston 54 within the pump housing 30.

[0097] Referring to FIG. 5, the first and second outside cams 64, 66 include a plurality of slits 70 along an outer circumference 72 of the cams 64, 66. These slits 70 are used during assembly and testing of the system 10 to confirm dimensional tuning of the cams 64, 66. Also, at least one of the first and second outside cams 64, 66, preferably the first outside cam 64, includes an assembly slot 74 defined within the outer circumference 72 of the cams 64, 66. This assembly slot 74 facilitates assembly of the pump assembly 28. In particular, this assembly slot 74 facilitates mounting of the cam shaft 50, including the cams 64, 66, after the first and second pinch levers 38, 40 have already been incorporated into the system 10.

[0098] Each of the first and second pinch levers 38, 40 comprise a cam follower 76 and lever guides 78. The lever guides 78 are described below. The cam followers 76 of the pinch levers 38, 40 are engaged by the cam shaft 50 for alternating movement of the first and second pinch levers 38, 40 between the open and closed positions such that the medication can be delivered to the patient 12. More specifically, the cam follower 76 of the first pinch lever 38 is engaged by the first outside cam 64 for alternating movement of the first pinch lever 38 between the open and closed positions, and the cam follower 76 of the second pinch lever 40 is engaged by the second outside cam 66 for alternating movement of the second pinch lever 40 between the open and closed positions. Even more specifically, each of the first and second outside cams 64, 66 include internal cam sur-

faces 80. As disclosed in FIGS. 6A-6D, the cam follower 76 of the first pinch lever 38 rides within the internal cam surface 80 of the first outside cam 64 for alternating movement of the first pinch lever 38, and the cam follower 76 of the second pinch lever 40 rides within the internal cam surface 80 of the second outside cam 66 for alternating movement of the second pinch lever 40.

[0099] Referring primarily to FIGS. 3, and 8-10, the system 10 further includes a port assembly 82 that enables various fluids, such as the medication or the sterilization fluid, to flow into, from, and within the system 10. The port assembly 82, hereinafter described as the port 82, extends from the base housing 16. More specifically, the port 82 extends from the middle housing 20. The port 82 is in fluid communication with the reservoir 24 and the pump assembly 28. During sterilization, the port 82 provides access for the sterilization fluid to flow into the reservoir 24 and the pump assembly 28. During filling, the port 82 provides access for the medication to flow into the reservoir 24 and the pump assembly 28. During delivery of the medication to the patient 12, the port 82 provides access for the medication to be delivered to the patient 12.

[0100] Referring particularly to FIGS. 9, and 11A-13B, the port 82 includes an elongated housing 84. The elongated housing 84 includes a proximate end 86, a distal end 88, and an interior wall 90 defining a fluid chamber 92 between the proximate and distal ends 86, 88. It is the proximate end 86 of the elongated housing 84 that extends from the system 10 to provide access for the fluid to flow both into and from the system 10. The port 82 further includes a first fluid connector 94, a second fluid connector 96, and a third fluid connector 98. The first fluid connector 94, alternatively referred to as an outlet of the port 82, extends from the elongated housing 84 to allow the fluid to flow from the fluid chamber 92 into the pump assembly 28. The second fluid connector 96, alternatively referred to as an inlet to the port 82, extends from the elongated housing 84 to allow the fluid to flow from the pump assembly 28 into the fluid chamber 92. The third fluid connector 98, alternatively referred to as an access to the reservoir 24, extends from the elongated housing 84 to allow the fluid to flow between the fluid chamber 92 and the reservoir 24. In the preferred embodiment of the subject invention, there are two third fluid connectors 98, one third fluid connector 98 extending from opposite sides of the elongated housing 84.

[0101] Referring primarily to FIGS. 3, 6D, 8-10, and 11A-13B, the port 82 further includes a plunger 100. The plunger 100 is disposed in the fluid chamber 92 of the port 82 and is moveable between an off-position (FIGS. 11A-11B), a fill-position (FIGS. 12A-12B), and a fluid delivery-position (FIGS. 13A-13B). As disclosed in FIGS. 11A-11B, in the off-position, the first, second, and third fluid connectors 94, 96, 98 are isolated from the proximate end 86 of the elongated housing 84 by the plunger 100. As a result, the flow of fluid through the port 82 is prevented. As disclosed in FIGS. 12A-12B, in the fill-position, the first and third fluid connectors 94, 98 are in fluid communication with the proximate end 86 of the elongated housing 84. As a result, a fluid flow path, shown but not numbered in FIGS. 12A-12B, is provided between the proximate end 86 of the elongated housing 84, the medication reservoir 24, and the pump assembly 28 such that the fluid can be filled through the proximate end 86 of the housing and into the medication

reservoir 24 and the pump assembly 28. This fluid flow path is defined between the port 82, the reservoir 24, and the pump assembly 28 such that the flow of sterilization fluid through the fluid flow path is continuous during sterilization of the system 10. The fill-position of the plunger 100 is utilized when the system 10 is being sterilized with the sterilization fluid and also when the system 10 is being filled with medication. As disclosed in FIGS. 13A-13B, in the fluid delivery position, the first, second, and third fluid connectors 94, 96, 98 are in fluid communication with the proximate end 86 of the elongated housing 84 and with each other for supplying the pump assembly 28 and for delivering the fluid to the patient 12.

[0102] Referring primarily to FIGS. 3, 6D, 11A, 12A, 13A, and 14A-14B, the system 10 further includes an actuator 102 disposed in the base housing 16. The actuator 102 is moveable between a disengaged position and an engaged position. The disengaged position of the actuator 102 is described below. As disclosed in FIG. 6D, in the engaged position, the actuator 102 operatively engages the pump inlet 32 and the pump outlet 34 to retain, i.e., lock, both the pump inlet 32 and the pump outlet 34 in the open state during sterilization. With the pump inlet 32 and the pump outlet 34 in the open state, the sterilization fluid can penetrate throughout the entire system 10 to completely sterilize the system 10. That is, the sterilization fluid can penetrate into the reservoir 24, the pump inlet 32, the pump housing 30, and the pump outlet 34 to completely sterilize the system 10.

[0103] More specifically, the actuator 102 interacts with the first and second pinch levers 38, 40 to retain both the pump inlet 32 and the pump outlet 34 in the open state during sterilization. In the engaged position, the actuator 102 moves the first pinch lever 38 away from the pump inlet 32 into the open position to retain the pump inlet 32 in the open state, and the actuator 102 moves the second pinch lever 40 away from the pump outlet 34 into the open position to retain the pump outlet 34 in the open state. The actuator 102 retains both the first and second pinch levers 38, 40 in the open position for sterilization despite the bias of the at least one biasing device 44.

[0104] On the other hand, when the actuator 102 is in the disengaged position, as indicated by the absence of the actuator 102 from FIGS. 6B-6C, the actuator 102 is operatively disengaged from the pump inlet 32 and the pump outlet 34. The actuator 102 is in the disengaged position when it is necessary to deliver the medication to the patient 12 such that the pump inlet 32 and the pump outlet 34 can alternate between the open and closed states to deliver the medication the patient 12. Disengagement of the actuator 102 permits the pump inlet 32 and the pump outlet 34 to alternate between the open and closed states.

[0105] Referring particularly to FIGS. 14A-14B, the actuator 102 is disclosed in greater detail. The actuator 102 includes a base portion 104 and at least one engagement arm 106 extending from the base portion 104. The at least one engagement arm 106 of the actuator 102 operatively engages the pump assembly 28 to retain the pump inlet 32 and the pump outlet 34 in the open state during sterilization. In the preferred embodiment of the subject invention, the actuator 102 more specifically includes first and second engagement arms 108, 110, respectively, extending from the base portion

104. In the preferred embodiment, the actuator **102** also includes an actuation arm **112**. The actuation arm **112** extends from the base portion **104** between the first and second engagement arms **108, 110**. As shown in the Figures, the actuation arm **112** extends upwardly from the base portion **104** between the first and second engagement arms **108, 110**.

[**0106**] During sterilization, the first engagement arm **108** of the actuator **102** engages the first pinch lever **38** to move the first pinch lever **38** away from the pump inlet **32** to retain the pump inlet **32** in the open state. Similarly, during sterilization, the second engagement arm **110** of the actuator **102** engages the second pinch lever **40** to move the second pinch lever **40** away from the pump outlet **34** to retain the pump outlet **34** in the open state.

[**0107**] After sterilization it is desirable to move the actuator **102** into the disengaged position such that the pump assembly **28** can operate and the medication can be delivered to the patient **12**. As indicated by the arrow (A) in FIG. **6D**, the plunger **100** moves to displace the actuator **102** from the engaged position thereby moving the actuator **102** into the disengaged position. To displace the actuator **102**, the plunger **100** engages the actuation arm **112**. The plunger **100** displaces the actuator **102** from the operative engagement with the pump assembly **28** after sterilization such that the pump inlet **32** and the pump outlet **34** can alternate between the open and the closed state to deliver the medication to the patient **12**. More specifically, the plunger **100** displaces the actuator **102** from the engagement with the first and second pinch levers **38, 40** after sterilization such that medication can be delivered to the patient **12**. As such, the motor **42**, which is operatively engaged to the first and second pinch levers **38, 40**, can move these levers **38, 40** for drawing the medication into the pump housing **30** through the pump inlet **32** and for displacing the medication from the pump housing **30** through the pump outlet **34**.

[**0108**] Referring now to FIG. **14B**, a control contact **114**, preferably a spring-like control contact **114**, may be disposed at a distal end **116** of the actuation arm **112** away from the base portion **104** to indicate to the system **10** whether the actuator **102** is in the engaged or the disengaged position. The control contact **114** interacts with the actuation arm **112** of the actuator **102** upon the movement of the actuator **102** between the engaged or the disengaged position. If the control contact **114** is included, it is preferred that when the actuator **102** is disengaged from the first and second pinch levers **38, 40**, i.e., when the actuator **102** is in the disengaged position, it contacts the control contact **114** to activate an electronic controller **118**. The electronic controller **118** is activated to permit the pump assembly **28** to operate for delivering the medication to the patient **12**. As indicated above, it is preferred that the actuation arm **112** of the actuator **102** is in contact with the control contact **114** when the actuator **102** is in the disengaged position. Of course, it is to be understood that the opposite could be true. That is, the system **10** can be designed such that the actuation arm **112** of the actuator **102** is in contact with the control contact **114** when the actuator **102** is in the engaged position.

[**0109**] The system **10** further includes a medication inlet tube **120** and a medication outlet tube **122**. The medication inlet tube **120** is connected between the port **82** and the pump inlet **32** to provide access for the sterilization fluid to

flow from the port **82** into the pump assembly **28**, specifically into the pump inlet **32**. The medication outlet tube **122** is connected between the pump outlet **34** and the port **82** to provide access for the sterilization fluid to flow from the pump assembly **28**, specifically from the pump outlet **34**, into the port **82**. The medication inlet tube **120** and the first pinch lever **38** together establish the pump inlet **32**, and the medication outlet tube **122** and the second pinch lever **40** together establish the pump outlet **34**.

[**0110**] When the at least one biasing device **44** engages the first pinch lever **38** to normally-bias the first pinch lever **38** into the closed position, the medication inlet tube **120** is pinched. As such, the pump inlet **32** is maintained in the closed state. Similarly, when the at least one biasing device **44** engages the second pinch lever **40** to normally-bias the second pinch lever **40** into the closed position, the medication outlet tube **122** is pinched. As such, the pump outlet **34** is maintained in the closed state. However, as disclosed in FIG. **6D**, when the actuator **102** is in the engaged position during sterilization, the actuator **42** overcomes the bias of the at least one biasing device **44** to move the first pinch lever **38** away from the medication inlet tube **120** such that the pump inlet **32** remains in the open state, and the actuator **102** overcomes the bias of the at least one biasing device **44** to move the second pinch lever **40** away from the medication outlet tube **122** such that the pump outlet **34** remains in the open state.

[**0111**] Referring particularly to FIGS. **3**, and **8-10**, the port **82** and the plunger **100** are described in greater detail. The plunger **100** includes a length **L**, a circumference **C**, and a plurality of seats **124** disposed along the length **L** and about the circumference **C** of the plunger **100**. The seats **124** extend outwardly from the circumference **C** of the plunger **100** to the interior wall **90** of the elongated housing **84** of the port **82** to segregate the fluid chamber **92** of the elongated housing **84**. A fluid passage, not numbered, is defined between each of the seats **124** and the interior wall **90** of the housing. These fluid passages control the flow of fluid within the port **82**. Although the seats **124** may suitably segregate the fluid chamber **92**, it is preferred that seals **126** are disposed about each of the seats **126** to assist with sealing the fluid passages from one another. In the most preferred embodiment, which is shown in the Figures, these seals are O-rings. At least one leak rib **128** extends at least partially along the interior wall **90** of the elongated housing **84**. The at least one leak rib **128** selectively causes at least one of the seals **126** to leak when the plunger **100** is in the fill-position. As disclosed in the Figures, preferably there are two leak ribs **128** that extend along the interior wall **90** of the elongated housing **84**.

[**0112**] As shown in FIGS. **11A-13B**, the plunger **100** is at least partially hollow. As such, the plunger **100** defines an internal fluid bore **130** that extends within the plunger **100** between the seats **124**. The plunger **100** further includes an access end **132** and a plunger actuation end **134**. A plunger biasing device **136**, preferably a compression spring, is disposed about the plunger actuation end **134** of the plunger **100** to bias the plunger **100** into the off-position. The internal fluid bore **130** extends from the access end **132**, where the fluid flows into and from the internal fluid bore **130**, toward the plunger actuation end **134**. The internal fluid bore **130**

includes a fluid duct **138** in fluid communication with one of the fluid passages such that the flow can flow into and from the internal fluid bore **130**.

[0113] In the most preferred embodiment of the subject invention, the plurality of seats **124** are further defined as a first, second, third, and fourth seat **140**, **142**, **144**, **146**, respectively. The first seat **140** is disposed toward the access end **132** of the plunger **100**, the fourth seat **146** is disposed toward the plunger actuation end **134** of the plunger **100**, and the second and third seats **142**, **144** are disposed successively between the first and fourth seats **140**, **146**. In this embodiment, the fluid passages are further defined as a first, second, and third fluid passage **148**, **150**, **152**, respectively. The first fluid passage **148** is defined between the first and second seats **140**, **142** and the interior wall **90**, the second fluid passage **150** is defined between the second and third seats **142**, **144** and the interior wall **90**, and the third fluid passage **152** is defined between the third and fourth seats **144**, **146** and the interior wall **90**.

[0114] A first seal **154** is disposed about the first seat **140** for sealing the first fluid passage **148** from the access end **132** of the plunger **100**, a second seal **156** is disposed about the second seat **142** for sealing the first and second fluid passages **148**, **150** from one another, a third seal **158** is disposed about the third seat **144** for sealing the second and third fluid passages **150**, **152** from one another, and a fourth seal **160** is disposed about the fourth seat **146** for sealing the third fluid passage **152** from the plunger actuation end **134** of the plunger **100**. In this embodiment, the at least one leak rib **128** extends along the interior wall **90** of the elongated housing **84** from the proximate end **86** toward the distal end **88** just beyond the first seal **154** such that only the first seal **154** selectively leaks when the plunger **100** is in the fill-position.

[0115] In this most preferred embodiment, the internal fluid bore **130** extends within the plunger **100** from the access end **132** to the third seat **144**. As such, the fluid duct **138** is in fluid communication with the second fluid passage **150** defined between the second and third seats **142**, **144** and the interior wall **90** such that the fluid can flow into and from the internal fluid bore **130** at the second fluid passage **150**.

[0116] The off-, fill-, and fluid delivery-positions of the plunger **100** are now described in the context of this most preferred embodiment having four seats **140**, **142**, **144**, **146**, three fluid passages **148**, **150**, **152**, and four seals **154**, **156**, **158**, **160**. Referring to FIGS. **11A-11B**, when the plunger **100** is in the off-position, the first, second, and third fluid connectors **94**, **96**, **98** are isolated from the proximate end **86** of the elongated housing **84** and from the access end **132** of the plunger **100** by the first, second, and third seats **140**, **142**, **144**. In this off-position, the first and third fluid connectors **94**, **98** are aligned with the third fluid passage **152**.

[0117] Referring to FIGS. **12A-12B**, when the plunger **100** is in the fill-position, the first and third fluid connectors **94**, **98** are in fluid communication with the proximate end **86** of the elongated housing **84** and with the access end **132** of the plunger **100** through the second fluid passage **150** and the fluid duct **138** of the internal fluid bore **130**. In this fill-position, the first and third fluid connectors **94**, **98** are aligned with the second fluid passage **150**. As such, the fluid can be filled through the access end **132** of the plunger **100**, through the internal fluid bore **130** and the fluid duct **138**,

and into the reservoir **24** and the pump assembly **28**. In the fill-position, the second fluid connector **96** is isolated from the proximate end **86** of the elongated housing **84**, from the access end **132** of the plunger **100**, and from the first and third fluid connectors **94**, **98** by the third and fourth seats **144**, **146**.

[0118] Referring to FIGS. **13A-13B**, when the plunger **100** is in the fluid delivery-position, the second fluid connector **96** is in fluid communication with the proximate end **86** of the housing and with the access end **132** of the plunger **100** through said second fluid passage **150** and the fluid duct **138** of the internal fluid bore **130**. In the fluid delivery-position, the medication is delivered from the pump assembly **28** to the patient **12**. In the fluid delivery-position, the first and third fluid connectors **94**, **98** are isolated from the proximate end **86** of the housing and from the access end **132** of the plunger **100** by the first and second seats **140**, **142**. However, the first and third fluid connectors **94**, **98** are in fluid communication with the reservoir **24** through the first fluid passage **148** to supply the pump assembly **28** with the fluid, i.e., with the medication. That is, in the fluid delivery-position, the first and third fluid connectors **94**, **98** are aligned with the first fluid passage **148**.

[0119] A fluid filling device, shown generally in FIG. **12B** at **162**, engages the proximate end **86** of the housing to automatically move the plunger **100** into the fill-position for filling the reservoir **24** and the pump assembly **28**. If the system **10** is being sterilized, then the fluid filling device **162** is preferably a fluid, or sterilization, cap **164** (shown detached from the system **10** in FIG. **12B**) that moves the plunger **100** into the fill-position to enable a sterilization fluid to penetrate into the reservoir **24** and the pump assembly **28**. The fluid cap **164**, by design, automatically moves the plunger **100** into the fill-position. Therefore, when the system **10** is introduced into a chamber filled with the sterilization fluid, preferably EtO gas, then the sterilization fluid flows, or seeps, through the fluid cap **164**, through the proximate end **86** of the elongated housing **84** and the access end **132** of the plunger **100**, through the internal fluid bore **130** and the fluid duct **138**, into the second fluid passage **150**, through the third fluid connector **98** into the reservoir **24**, and through the first fluid connector **94** into the pump assembly **28**.

[0120] If the system **10** is being filled with medication, then the fluid filling device **162** is preferably a syringe **166** that moves the plunger **100** into the fill-position for filling the reservoir **24** and the pump assembly **28**. The syringe **166** (shown attached to the system **10** in FIG. **12B**) engages the access end **132** of the plunger **100** and, by design, automatically moves the plunger **100** into the fill-position for filling the reservoir **24** and the pump assembly **28** through the internal fluid bore **130**. Therefore, when the system **10** is being filled, the syringe **166** interacts with the proximate end **86** of the elongated housing **84** and the access end **132** of the plunger **100** and, as the syringe plunger is depressed, the medication flows through the internal fluid bore **130** and the fluid duct **138**, into the second fluid passage **150**, through the third fluid connector **98** into the reservoir **24**, and through the first fluid connector **94** into the pump assembly **28**.

[0121] To deliver the medication to the patient **12**, the system **10** is utilized in combination with the infusion tube set **14**. Referring back to FIG. **1A**, the infusion tube set **14**

includes a fluid end 168 and a patient end 170. The fluid end 168 of the tube set 14, through a delivery connector 172, engages the proximate end 86 of the elongated housing 84 and the access end 132 of the plunger 100 to automatically move the plunger 100 into the fluid delivery-position for delivering the medication to the patient 12. Therefore, as shown in FIGS. 13A-13B, when the pump assembly 28 is operating, the medication is drawn from the reservoir 24 through the third fluid connector 98 into the port 82 at the first fluid passage 148, and through the first fluid connector 94 into the pump inlet 32. The medication is then displaced out of the pump assembly 28 through the pump outlet 34, through the second fluid connector 96 into the port 82 at the second fluid passage 150, through the fluid duct 138 and the internal fluid bore 130 of the plunger 100, and out the access end 132 of the plunger 100 at the fluid end 168 of the infusion tube set 14. From there, the medication flows through the infusion tube set 14, out the patient end 170, and to the patient 12.

[0122] Referring back to FIG. 4, the system 10 further includes the electronic controller 118. The electronic controller 118 controls an amount of the medication that is to be delivered to the patient 12. The electronic controller 118 is mounted to the base housing 16, specifically to the top housing 22 of the base housing 16. Furthermore, the electronic controller 118 remains mounted to the base housing 16 during sterilization such that the entire system 10, including all mechanical components, the reservoir 24, and the electronic controller 118, is simultaneously sterilized. An electronic display 174 and at least one control button 176 are mounted to the base housing 16. The electronic display 174 and the control button 176 interact with the electronic controller 118 to control the amount of the medication to be delivered to the patient 12. As with the electronic controller 118, the electronic display 174 and the control button 176 also remain mounted to the base housing 16 during sterilization.

[0123] The subject invention also provides a blockage detection system which is generally disclosed at 178 in FIGS. 15A-15B. The blockage detection system 178 detects a blockage in the flow of the medication to the patient 12. The blockage detection system 178 comprises the base housing 16, the reservoir 24, the port 82, the pump assembly 28, the medication outlet tube 122, and the electronic controller 118. The blockage detection system 178 also includes a detection film 180 which is described below.

[0124] In the blockage detection system 178, the electronic controller 118 is mounted to the base housing 16 adjacent the outlet tube 122. The outlet tube 122 is mounted to the base housing 16 and, as described above, is connected between the pump assembly 28 and the port 82 to provide access for the medication to flow from the pump assembly 28 into the port 82 and to the patient 12. The outlet tube 122 has a diameter that is contractible and expandable between a normal condition (see FIG. 15A) and an expanded condition (see FIG. 15B). The diameter of the outlet tube 122 contracts and expands in response to variations in pressure that result from the flow of the medication from the reservoir 24 through the pump assembly 28 into the port 82 and to the patient 12.

[0125] As disclosed in the Figures, the outlet tube 122 is mounted to the base housing 16 via a support platform 182.

That is, the support platform 182 is mounted on the base housing 16 to support the outlet tube 122 on the base housing 16. The support platform 182 includes at least one tube slot 184. The at least one tube slot 184 houses the diameter of the outlet tube 122. The outlet tube 122 is mounted in the tube slot 184 such that at least a portion, not numbered, of the diameter of the outlet tube 122 is exposed to the detection film 180.

[0126] The detection film 180 is disposed between the electronic controller 118 and the outlet tube 122. The detection film 180 is in contact with the outlet tube 122 and remains spaced from the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the outlet tube 122 is in the normal condition, as in FIG. 15A. On the other hand, the detection film 180 is in contact with the outlet tube 122 and contacts the electronic controller 118 to activate the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the outlet tube 122 is in the expanded condition, as in FIG. 15B, in response to increased pressure resulting from the blockage in the flow of the medication to the patient 12. More specifically, it is preferred that an electronic switch 186 is embedded in the electronic controller 118 between the electronic controller 118 and the detection film 180. The detection film 180 interacts with the electronic controller 118 by contacting the electronic switch 186 to activate the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the outlet tube 122 is in the expanded condition.

[0127] For activating the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the outlet tube 122 is in the expanded condition, it is also preferred that the detection film 180 is conductive. Once activated by the detection film 180, the electronic controller 118 deactivates the pump assembly 28 to prevent delivery of the medication to the patient 12 when the diameter of the outlet tube 122 is in the expanded condition. Deactivation of the pump assembly 28 prevents further blockage and further increases in pressure. To properly ensure that there is a blockage in the outlet tube 122, it is most preferred that the electronic controller 118, and therefore the pump assembly 28, are deactivated only if the diameter of the outlet tube 122 is in the expanded condition for more than at least one cycle of the pump assembly 28. This additional measure avoids false readings and the deactivation of the pump assembly 28 when the outlet tube 122 is truly not blocked.

[0128] Additionally, once activated by the detection film 180, the electronic controller 118 may also activate an alarm 188, shown schematically in the Figures. The alarm 188, which can be audible and/or visually displayed on the electronic display 174, would indicate the blockage that is due to the blockage in the flow of the medication to the patient 12.

[0129] It is preferred that the detection film 180 is mounted to the electronic controller 118. Although the detection film 180 is mounted to the electronic controller 118, a portion, not numbered, of the detection film 180 remains at least partially-spaced from the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the outlet tube 122 is in the normal condition. The detection film 180 is mounted to the electronic controller 118 with an adhesive layer 190. The adhesive layer 190 also establishes a thickness that is necessary to space the detection film 180, specifically the portion of the detection film 180, from the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the outlet tube 122 is in the

normal condition. The portion of the detection film 180 contacts the electronic controller 118 to activate the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the outlet tube 122 is in the expanded condition in response to increased pressure in the outlet tube 122.

[0130] An alternative embodiment for the blockage detection system 178 is disclosed in FIG. 17. In this alternative embodiment, the detection film 180 is eliminated, and a coating 192 is included. The coating 192 is applied to the outlet tube 122. The coating 192 activates the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the outlet tube 122 is in the expanded condition in response to increased pressure resulting from the blockage in the flow of the medication to the patient 12. As with the detection film 180, the coating 192 is preferably conductive. If the coating 192 is present, it is most preferred that the coating 192 is formed of conductive carbon. However, other coatings may be used that impart conductive properties to the coating 192.

[0131] For the most part, the other characteristics of this alternative embodiment for the blockage detection system 178 are identical to the characteristics that were described above in the preferred embodiment for the blockage detection system 178. Notably, the outlet tube 122 is mounted in the tube slot 184 in this alternative embodiment such that at least a portion of the coating 192 is exposed beyond the tube slot 184.

[0132] The subject invention also provides an empty detection system which is generally disclosed at 194 in FIGS. 16A-16B. The empty detection system 194 determines when a supply of the medication has been depleted. The empty detection system 194 comprises the base housing 16, the reservoir 24 for storing the supply of the medication to be delivered to the patient 12, the port 82, the pump assembly 28, the medication inlet tube 120, and the electronic controller 118. As with the blockage detection system 178, the preferred embodiment of the empty detection system 194 also includes a detection film, also numbered 180, which is described below.

[0133] In the empty detection system 194, the electronic controller 118 is mounted to the base housing 16 adjacent the inlet tube 120. The inlet tube 120 is mounted to the base housing 16 and, as described above, is connected between the reservoir 24 and the pump assembly 28 to provide access for the medication to flow from the reservoir 24 into the pump assembly 28 and to the patient 12. The inlet tube 120 has a diameter that is contractible and expandable between a normal condition (see FIG. 16A) and a collapsed condition (see FIG. 16B). The inlet tube 120 contracts into the collapsed condition and expands from the collapsed condition into the normal condition. The diameter of the inlet tube 120 contracts and expands in response to variations in pressure that result from a lack of the flow of the medication from the reservoir 24 through the pump assembly 28 and to the patient 12.

[0134] As disclosed in the Figures, the inlet tube 120 is mounted to the base housing 16 via the support platform 182. That is, the support platform 182 is mounted on the base housing 16 to support the inlet tube 120 on the base housing 16. The support platform 182 includes the at least one tube slot 184. The at least one tube slot 184 houses the diameter of the inlet tube 120. The inlet tube 120 is mounted

in the tube slot 184 such that at least a portion of the diameter of the inlet tube 120 is exposed to the detection film 180.

[0135] The detection film 180 is disposed between the electronic controller 118 and the inlet tube 120. As shown in FIG. 16A, the detection film 180 is in contact with the inlet tube 120 and contacts the electronic controller 118 to activate the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the inlet tube 120 is in the normal condition. On the other hand, as shown in FIG. 16B, the detection film 180 becomes spaced from the electronic controller 118 to deactivate the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the inlet tube 120 is in the collapsed condition in response to the lack of flow of the medication that results from the supply of the medication being depleted.

[0136] It is preferred that an electronic switch 186 is embedded in the electronic controller 118 between the electronic controller 118 and the detection film 180. The detection film 180 contacts the electronic switch 186 to activate the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the inlet tube 120 is in the normal condition, and the detection film 180 becomes spaced from the electronic switch 186 to deactivate the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the inlet tube 120 is in the collapsed condition.

[0137] As best disclosed in FIG. 4, the detection film 180 more specifically includes a film base portion 196 and a cantilever portion 198. The film base portion 196 of the detection film 180 is mounted to the electronic controller 118 away from the electronic switch 186, and the cantilever portion 198 of the detection film 180 is adjacent the electronic switch 186. More specifically, the cantilever portion 198 extends from the film base portion 104 to contact the electronic switch 186 when the diameter of the inlet tube 120 is in the normal condition. It is the cantilever portion 198 of the detection film 180 that becomes spaced from the electronic controller 118 to deactivate the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the inlet tube 120 is in the collapsed condition. For activating the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the inlet tube 120 is in the normal condition, it is also preferred that the detection film 180, specifically the cantilever portion 198 of the detection film 180, is conductive. Preferably, the detection film 180 is mounted to the electronic controller 118 with an adhesive layer 190. Of course, it is the film base portion 196 of the detection film 180 that is directly mounted to the electronic controller 118. The cantilever portion 198 of the detection film 180 is not directly mounted, or otherwise adhered, to the electronic controller 118 such that this portion of the detection film 180 can become spaced from the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the inlet tube 120 is in the collapsed condition.

[0138] Once the detection film 180 becomes spaced from the electronic controller 118, i.e., when the diameter of the inlet tube 120 is in the collapsed condition, the portion of the electronic controller 118 that interacts with the pump assembly 28 is deactivated such that the pump assembly 28 is deactivated. Deactivation of the pump assembly 28 after it has been determined that the supply of the medication has been depleted prevents a build up of air in the system. To properly ensure that the supply of the medication has been depleted, it is most preferred that the electronic controller

118, and therefore the pump assembly 28, are deactivated only if the diameter of the inlet tube 120 is in the collapsed condition for more than at least one cycle of the pump assembly 28. This additional measure avoids false readings and the deactivation of the pump assembly 28 when the supply of the medication is truly not depleted.

[0139] Additionally, deactivation of the portion of the electronic controller 118 that interacts with the pump assembly 28 may also cause the electronic controller 118 to activate the alarm 188. The alarm 188, which can be audible and/or visually displayed on the electronic display 174, would indicate the lack of flow of the medication when the diameter of the inlet tube 120 is in the collapsed condition due to the lack of flow of the medication to the patient 12.

[0140] An alternative embodiment for the empty detection system 194 is disclosed in FIG. 17. In this alternative embodiment, the detection film 180 is eliminated, and the coating 192 is included. The coating 192 is applied to the inlet tube 120. The coating 192 contacts the electronic controller 118 to activate the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the inlet tube 120 is in the normal condition. On the other hand, the coating 192 becomes spaced from the electronic controller 118 to deactivate the electronic controller 118 when the diameter of the inlet tube 120 is in the collapsed condition in response to the lack of flow of the medication resulting from the supply of the medication being depleted. As with the detection film 180, the coating 192 is preferably conductive. If the coating 192 is present, it is most preferred that the coating 192 is formed of conductive carbon. However, other coatings may be used that impart conductive properties to the coating 192.

[0141] For the most part, the other characteristics of this alternative embodiment for the empty detection system 194 are identical to the characteristics that were described above in the preferred embodiment for the empty detection system 194. Notably, the inlet tube 120 is mounted in the tube slot 184 in this alternative embodiment such that at least a portion of the coating 192 is exposed beyond the tube slot 184.

[0142] Referring now to FIGS. 1B, 6A-6D, and 18A-18B, the system 10 of the subject invention can be tested using a testing instrument 200 after assembly of the system 10. The system 10 is tested after assembly and prior to shipment and use by the surgeons, patients, and the like to confirm various operations of the system 10. In the preferred embodiment, to test the system 10, the system 10 is mounted onto the testing instrument 200. One operation of the system 10 that is confirmed after assembly of the system 10 is the operation of the pump assembly 28.

[0143] To confirm these operations, the system 10 includes at least one testing access port 202. The at least one testing access port 202 is defined within the base housing 16 and is aligned with at least one of the pump inlet 32, the pump outlet 34, and the actuator 102. Preferably, the at least one testing access port 202 is aligned with all three of the pump inlet 32, the pump outlet 34, and the actuator 102. The at least one testing access port 202 provides access for the testing instrument 200 to move the actuator 102 between the disengaged position and the engaged position. If the at least one testing access port 202 is aligned with the pump inlet 32 and the pump outlet 34 then it is aligned with the first and second pinch levers 38, 40, respectively. Also, as for the

alignment with the actuator 102, the at least one testing access port 202 is more specifically aligned with the at least one engagement arm 106 of the actuator 102. This provides access for the testing instrument 200 to move the actuator 102 between the disengaged position and the engaged position.

[0144] The system 10 is preferably assembled with the actuator 102 in the engaged position such that the first and second pinch levers 38, 40 are in the open position and the resiliency and life of the medication inlet and outlet tubes 120, 122 is not compromised. Because the at least one testing access port 202 provides access for the testing instrument 200 to move the actuator 102 between the disengaged position and the engaged position, the testing instrument 200 can be inserted into the at least one testing access port 202 to disengage the actuator 102, i.e., to move the actuator 102 into the disengaged position. As such, the pump inlet 32 and the pump outlet 34 can alternate between the open and closed states after assembly and during testing of the system 10.

[0145] The at least one testing access port also provides access for the testing instrument 200 such that the pump inlet 32 and the pump outlet 34 can be retained in the open state after the system 10 has been tested to prepare the system 10 for sterilization. That is, after the system 10 has been tested, the actuator 102 is moved from the disengaged position back into the engaged position to prepare the system 10 for sterilization. In the engaged position, the first and second pinch levers 38, 40 are retained in the open state.

[0146] In the preferred embodiment, the at least one testing access port 202 is further defined as first, second, and third testing access ports 204, 206, 208, respectively. The first testing access port 204 is aligned with the pump inlet 32, the second testing access port 206 is aligned with the pump outlet 34, and the third testing access port 208 is aligned with the actuator 102 for providing access to the testing instrument 200 to move the actuator 102 into the engaged position. More specifically, the first testing access port 204 is aligned with the first pinch lever 38 such that the first pinch lever 38 is engaged by the testing instrument 200. Once inside the first testing access port 204, the testing instrument 200 forces the first pinch lever 38 away from the pump inlet 32 and forces the pump inlet 32 into the open state. Similarly, the second testing access port 206 is aligned with the second pinch lever 40 such that the second pinch lever 40 is engaged by the testing instrument 200. Once inside the second testing access port 206, the testing instrument 200 forces the second pinch lever 40 away from the pump outlet 34 and forces the pump outlet 34 into the open state. The first and second pinch levers 38, 40 include the lever guides 78 opposite the cam follower 76 of each pinch lever 38, 40. To move the first and second pinch levers 38, 40, the testing instrument 200 engages the lever guides 78 upon insertion into the first and second testing access ports 204, 206. After the testing instrument 200 forces the first and second pinch levers 38, 40 away from the pump inlet 32 and the pump outlet 34, respectively, the testing instrument 200 is introduced into the third testing access port 208 and the actuator 102 is moved into the engaged position to engage and retain the pinch levers 38, 40 in the open position such that the system 10 is now prepared for sterilization. It is to be understood by those skilled in the art that the testing

instrument **200** includes male prongs, generally indicated at **210**, that are introduced into the testing access ports **204**, **206**, **208**.

[**0147**] The system **10** further includes at least one controller access port **212** defined within the base housing **16**. In the preferred embodiment, the at least one controller access port **212** is defined within the top housing **22** or cover. The at least one controller access port **212** is aligned with the electronic controller **118** to provide access for a second testing instrument **214**. It is to be understood that the second testing instrument **214** and the testing instrument **200** may be a unitary component, as disclosed in the Figures. The second testing instrument **214** causes the electronic controller **118** to activate the motor **42** such that the motor **42** is powered to alternate the pump inlet **32** and the pump outlet **34** between the open and closed states after assembly and during testing of the system **10**. The second testing instrument **214** also preferably includes male prongs **210** that are introduced into the controller access ports **212**.

[**0148**] Referring primarily to FIGS. **2A-3**, and **19-20**, the system **10** of the subject invention is also suitable to be carried by the patient **12**. To facilitate carrying of the system **10** so the patient **12** can remain ambulatory, a carrying strap **216** is mounted within the base housing **16** for the carrying of the system **10** by the patient **12**. An integral storage cavity **218** is defined within the base housing **16**. The carrying strap **216** is at least partially disposed in the integral storage cavity **218**. The carrying strap **216** at least partially extends from the integral storage cavity **218** to interact with the patient **12** for carrying the system **10**.

[**0149**] The system **10** further includes a plurality of cavity walls. The cavity walls extend from the bottom housing **18** to define the integral storage cavity **218** between the bottom **18** and top **22** housings. Referring particularly to FIG. **20**, the cavity walls are further defined as a front wall **220**, a rear wall **222**, and first and second side walls **224** extending between the front and rear walls **220**, **222** to support the front and rear walls **220**, **222** and to define the integral storage cavity **218**. At least one strap slot **226** is defined within the front wall **220** such that at least a portion, not numbered, of the carrying strap **216** extends from the integral storage cavity **218** and through the strap slot **226**. The patient **12** can then access the portion of the carrying strap **216** when desired.

[**0150**] In interacting with the carrying strap **216**, the patient **12** simply manipulates, or grabs, the portion of the carrying strap **216** to pull a length of the carrying strap **216** from the integral storage cavity **218**. This length is then looped about the head of the patient **12** as specifically disclosed in FIG. **19**. In the preferred embodiment, the carrying strap **216** is retractable into the integral storage cavity **218** after the length has been pulled from the integral storage cavity **218** by the patient **12**. The system **10** further includes a clip **228** that connects opposing ends of the carrying strap **216** such that the carrying strap **216** is adjustable to fit patients **12** of all sizes. In the most preferred embodiment of the subject invention, which is disclosed in FIG. **19**, the carrying strap **216** is further defined as a shoulder strap. The shoulder strap suspends from a shoulder of the patient **12** for carrying the system **10**.

[**0151**] Also, as particularly disclosed in FIG. **1B**, the system **10** may also further include a system mounting clip

230 that extends from an exterior facing **232** of the base housing **16**. The system mounting clip **230** can be mounted to a belt **234** of the patient **12**. Of course, it is to be understood that the system mounting clip **230** is not to be limited to a clip for a belt **234**. Instead, the system mounting clip **230** may be mounted to a shirt, a pocket, and the like.

[**0152**] Referring to FIGS. **2B**, and **21-24**, the subject invention further provides a method of controlling the system **10**. This method is designed to be convenient for both the surgeon, or other medical professional, and the patient **12**. A patient label **236**, having a second set of explanatory indicia, i.e., instructions, is mounted, preferably adhered, to the system **10**. A removable overlay label **238**, having a first set of explanatory indicia, i.e., instructions, is mounted, preferably adhered, to the patient label **236** to at least partially cover the patient label **236**.

[**0153**] The method includes the steps of selecting the amount of the medication in accordance with the first set of explanatory indicia on the removable overlay label **238**. The medical professional selects the amount of the medication. As such, the first set of explanatory indicia is intended to be readily understood by the medical professional. Typically, the amount of the medication is selected by selecting the flow rate for the medication. Other parameters including, but not limited to, the bolus amount, the drug or medication concentration, and like, can also be selected.

[**0154**] Throughout the step of selecting, the medical professional and/or patient **12** interfaces with the electronic display **174** to view his or her selections. More specifically, the electronic display **174** presents a readable output for the medical professional and the patient **12**. The readable output displayed on the electronic display **174** is correlated with the removable overlay label **238** and the patient label **236**. That is, the readable output is correlated to the first and second sets of instructions. A first readable output is presented on the electronic display **174**. The first readable output is linked with the first set of explanatory indicia when the removable overlay label **238** is displayed. Similarly, a second readable output is presented on the electronic display **174**. The second readable output is linked with the second set of explanatory indicia after the system **10** has been locked. Locking the system **10** is described immediately below.

[**0155**] After the amount of the medication has been selected, the system **10** is locked such that selected amount of the medication to be delivered to the patient **12** is unable to be modified. After the medical professional is satisfied with his or her selection, the medical professional depresses the "LOCK" portion of the first set of explanatory indicia on the removable overlay label **238** to lock the system **10**.

[**0156**] Once the system **10** is locked, either the medical professional or the patient **12** can remove the removable overlay label **238** to reveal the patient label **236** (as shown in FIG. **21**). To accomplish this, the user, either the medical professional or the patient **12**, simply pulls the removable overlay label **238** off the patient label **236**. This reveals the control button **176** that was originally masked under the removable overlay label **238**. The system **10** is then operated in accordance with a second set of explanatory indicia on the patient label **236**. The second set of explanatory indicia is intended to be readily understood by the patient **12**. Once the system **10** is locked, the system **10** is designed to be convenient for use by the patient **12**.

[0157] Upon locking the system 10, a functionality of the control button 176 is modified. As such, the functionality of the control button 176 is different when the removable overlay label 238 is displayed on the system 10 as compared to when the patient label 236 is displayed on the system 10. In other words, the functionality of the control button 176 is different when the medical professional interacts with the system 10 via the removable overlay label 238 as compared to when the patient 12 interacts with the system 10 via the patient label 236. When the removable overlay label 238 is displayed on the system 10, the control button 176 is at least tri-functional. On the other hand, after the system 10 has been locked and the patient label 236 is displayed on the system 10, the functionality of the control button 176 is converted from being at least tri-functional to being bi-functional.

[0158] In operating the system 10, the system 10 may be deactivated, if necessary, to stop delivery of the medication to the patient 12. To deactivate the system 10, the patient 12 depresses the "ON/OFF" portion of the, now bi-functional, control button 176 in response to the second set of explanatory indicia on the patient label 236. If the system 10 is deactivated, then the patient 12 may also use the control button 176 to activate the system 10 to re-start delivery of the medication to the patient 12. To accomplish this, the patient 12 depresses the "ON/OFF" portion of the control button 176 again.

[0159] Alternatively, in operating the system 10, the patient 12 may request an additional amount of the medication relative to the selected amount of the medication, and provided the Bolus amount will not be violated, the patient 12 will receive an additional amount of the medication. To request an additional amount of the medication relative to the selected amount, the patient 12 actuates the control button 176.

[0160] With specific reference to FIG. 25, a control system 240 for the system 10, according to an embodiment of the present invention is shown. The control system 240 includes the electronic controller 118 and a motor control circuit 242. The electronic controller 118 controls operation of the system 10 as described above.

[0161] In one embodiment, the electronic controller 118 includes a microprocessor 244. One suitable microprocessor 244 is available from Philips Semiconductor of Sunnyvale, Calif. as model no. 87LPC764. The electronic controller 118 is programmed to control operation of the motor control circuit 242 with a computer software program. In general, the electronic controller 118 generates control signals in accordance with the computer software program and delivers the control signals to the motor control circuit 242.

[0162] The motor control circuit 242 includes a first switch 246. The first switch 246 has an open state and a closed state.

[0163] The control system 240 also includes a watchdog circuit 248 coupled to the electronic controller 118. The watchdog circuit 248 includes a monitor circuit 250 and a second switch 252. The second switch 252 has an open state and a closed state and is coupled to the first switch 246. The monitor circuit 250 is adapted to detect an abnormal condition of the control system 240 and to turn the second switch 252 off if the abnormal condition is detected.

Examples of an abnormal condition include, but are not limited to, too many revolutions of the motor 42, failure of the electronic controller 118, failure of the first switch 246, or failure of a motor sensor 254 (see below).

[0164] The motor control circuit 242 is adapted to receive control signals from the electronic controller 118 and to responsively supply power to the motor 42 by placing the first switch 246 in the closed state. Power is supplied to the motor 42 if the first and second switches 246, 252 are in the closed state.

[0165] With reference to FIGS. 26 and 27, in one embodiment the first and second switches 246, 252 are field effect transistors (FETs) 256, 258. In one embodiment, the control system 240 includes the control buttons 176. A user such as the surgeon or the patient 12 is able to program the control system 240 to deliver medication at the desired flow rate. Based on the desired flow rate, the electronic controller 118 controls energization of the motor 42 to deliver the medication.

[0166] In one embodiment, each revolution of the motor 42 delivers a set amount of the medication during a known period of time. A predetermined number of revolutions of the motor 42 delivers a "pulse" of medication. In order to meet the desired flow rate, the electronic controller 118 calculates a period of time between revolutions of the motor 42.

[0167] In one embodiment of the present invention, the period of time calculated by the controller 118 (between pulses) is constant fixed for the desired flow rate.

[0168] In one aspect of the present invention, the controller 118 controls the pump assembly 28 to provide a series of pulses of medication to provide the desired flow of medication. With reference to FIGS. 28, 29A, 29B, and 29C, the fluid flow output of the system 10 may be subdivided. As shown, the fluid flow from the tube set 14 may be divided by a flow divider 288 to provide fluid flow to a plurality of legs 290. In the illustrated embodiment, there are n legs each having a respective fluid flowrate of \dot{M}_n .

[0169] In one embodiment, the series of pulses are determined to provide an outlet pressure at the pump outlet adapted to reduce the effect of any differential pressure between the legs. In other words, a differential pressure across two legs, e.g., Leg 1 and Leg 2, may result in a differential flow rate through each leg. The controller 118 manipulates the pulses to maintain the total pressure through the tube set 14 high enough for a long enough period of time to reduce the effect of the differential pressure at the legs. For example, the pulses may be spaced together closely enough so that each pulse begins before a significant drop in fluid pressure level occurs following the previous pulse.

[0170] With reference to FIG. 29A in another aspect of the present invention, the controller 118 controls the pump assembly 28 to provide groups 292 of pulses. In one embodiment, the number of pulses in a group 292 is predetermined. For exemplary purposes only, first and second groups 292A, 292B are shown with eight pulses each. A first time period, t_1 , separates the start of each pulse within a group 292 and a second time period, t_2 , separates the start of each group. The first and second time periods may be determined by the controller 118 to provide the desired flow rate while maintaining the desired flow through each leg 290

and reducing the effect of any pressure differential. For example, the number of pulses in each group **290** may be 10, the first time period may be equal to 1.8 seconds and the second time period may be 100 to 1300 seconds. Of course, the numbers are for explanation purposes only. The present invention is not limited to any such examples.

[0171] In another embodiment, the first time period is fixed and the controller **118** determines the second period as a function of the desired fluid flow.

[0172] In another aspect of the present invention, a method for delivering medication using a medication delivery system **10** including the steps of storing a supply of medication, receiving a desired flow of medication, and providing a flow of medication from the supply of medication in the form of a series of pulses. The flow is provided through an outlet and is subdivided into a plurality of legs **290**. The series of pulses are determined to provide an outlet pressure at the pump outlet adapted to reduce an effect of any differential pressure between the legs.

[0173] Since a higher pulse frequency may lead to an average flow rate during pulsing that is higher than the desired flow rate, the pulses may be delivered in groups of a given number of pulses (see above); the time elapsing between each group may be set as a function of the overall time-averaged flow rate desired from the pump (see above). This grouping of pulses can negatively affect the flow distribution to the various sites because the final pulse in a group will conclude with an asymptotic pressure drain during which the flow balance degrades as the pressure drops. To compensate for this, a group size may be selected so that the amount of flow occurring during the steady-state period of intermittent pulsing will sufficiently reduce the effect of the imbalanced flow that happens subsequent to the final pulse. With reference to **FIGS. 29B and 29C**, a representative sketch of a pressure profile during a group of pulses is shown. Pericritical represents a pressure level above which acceptable flow distribution may be assured. This value is dependent upon the desired level of accuracy and the level of variation in the outlet pressures.

[0174] The pump pulse method described above controls pressure and provides good flow splitting characteristics. In one embodiment of the present invention, the flow divider **288** may be designed to, in conjunction with the pump pulse method described above, to provide back pressure assistance, anti-siphon characteristics, and controlled restriction.

[0175] With reference to **FIG. 29D**, in one aspect of the present invention, the flow divider **288** includes a valve system **294** which provides flow restriction and anti-siphoning components to control flow split. In the illustrated embodiment, the valve system **294** includes two legs each leading to an extended fenestration catheter **296**.

[0176] As shown, in the illustrated embodiment, the infusion tube set **14** includes a priming adapter **294A**, an on/off clamp **294B**, and a filter **294C**. A divider, shown as a Y-connector, **294D** is coupled to the filter **294C**.

[0177] Each leg of the infusion set **14** after the Y-connector may include one or more low resistance, low cracking check valves **294E**. The check valves **294E** alleviates the siphoning problems during inactivity of the pump assembly **28** (see above).

[0178] Although the pressure deteriorates nearly to zero after the last pulse in a group, the number of pulses and the spacing of the pulses in a group may be determined so that the average pressure is great enough to provide adequate distribution of flow to each leg (see **FIG. 29B** and discussion above).

[0179] Each leg may also include a flow restrictor **294F**. In the illustrated embodiment, the flow restrictors **294F** are coupled to one of the check valves **294E**. The flow restrictors **294F** have an orifice (not shown) with a predetermined flow restriction value. The predetermined flow restriction value may be coordinated with the average flow rate during a group of pulses to keep the average pressure differential at a desired level for flow balance.

[0180] With reference to **FIGS. 30-36**, in another aspect of the present invention, the infusion tube set **14** may include a multiple site infusion apparatus **310**. The multiple site infusion apparatus **310** may be coupled to an output tube **312** of the system **10** to split the medication delivered from the delivery system **10** and deliver the medicine through first and second outlet passageways **314A, 314B**. In the illustrated embodiment, the apparatus **310** is shown as a two site infusion apparatus **310**, however, it should be noted that the present invention may provide medicine to a plurality of sites.

[0181] The apparatus **310** includes a valve housing **316**. The valve housing **316** includes a first end **318** and a second end **320**. The first end **318** includes the first and second outlet passageways **314A, 314B**.

[0182] An end cap **330** has a closed end **332** and an open end **334**. The end cap **330** is coupled to the valve housing **316** at the open end **334**. A flexible diaphragm **336** is coupled between the end cap **330** and the valve housing **316** and is movable from a closed position to an open position by the fluid energy of the pulse. The second end **320** of the valve housing **316** and the flexible diaphragm **336** form a pressure chamber **322**. The valve housing **316** further includes an inlet passageway **324**. The inlet passageway **324** is coupled to the pressure chamber **322**. The first and second outlet passageways **314A, 314B** are coupled to the pressure chamber **322** by first and second outlet conduits **328A, 328B**, respectively. The flexible diaphragm **336** seals the pressure chamber **322** from the first and second outlet conduits **328A, 328B** when the flexible diaphragm **336** is in the closed position and opens the first and second outlet conduits **328A, 328B** to the pressure chamber **322** when the flexible diaphragm **336** is in the open position.

[0183] The valve housing **316** also includes a routing passageway **326** adjacent the inlet passage **324**. The routing passageway **326** allows the medication delivery system inlet tube **312** to be secured within the valve housing **316**. In one embodiment of the present invention, the end of the inlet tube **312** coated with a solvent and inserted through the inlet of passageway **324**. The inlet passageway **324** and the output tube **312** have an interference fit. The solvent bonds the inlet tube **312** and the inlet passageway **324**.

[0184] As shown, in one embodiment of the present invention, the open end **334** of the cap **330** has an outer perimeter **338**. The outer perimeter **338** includes a ridge **340**. The second end **320** of the valve housing **316** includes a detent **342** along its outer perimeter **344**. The detent **342** receives

the ridge **340** which allows the valve housing **316** and the end cap **330** to be snapped together.

[**0185**] In another aspect of the present invention, the apparatus **310** includes a biasing mechanism **344** coupled between the cap **330** and the flexible diaphragm **336** for biasing the flexible diaphragm **336** towards the closed position. In one embodiment of the present invention, the biasing mechanism **344** includes a biasing spring **346**. The biasing spring **346** may be either tubular or conical.

[**0186**] In another aspect of the present invention, a piston **348** may be juxtaposed between the biasing spring **346** and the flexible diaphragm **336**. In one embodiment, the flexible diaphragm **336** includes a piston receiving aperture **350** for receiving a first end **352** of the piston **348**.

[**0187**] As shown, in one embodiment, the piston **348** is hollow and includes a spring receiving chamber **354**. The end cap **330** includes a spring positioning pin **356**. One end of the spring **346** is seated within the spring receiving chamber **354** and the other end is centered on the spring position pin **356**.

[**0188**] In another aspect of the present invention, the apparatus **310** includes first and second bushings **358A**, **358B** which are located within and have an interference fit with the first and second outlet passageway **314A**, **314B**. First and second restriction orifices **360A**, **360B** are positioned within and have an interference fit with the first and second bushings **358A**, **358B**, respectively. Flexible outlet tubes (not shown) are coupled to the passageways **314A**, **314B** to deliver medication to the sites, as needed.

[**0189**] In one aspect of the present invention, the inner diameter of the orifice **360A**, **360B** are relatively small, e.g., 0.001 to 0.005 inches with a small manufacturing tolerance. The orifices **360A**, **360B** are dimensioned to provide a large resistance to the flow of medication relative to resistance provided by the flexible outlet tubes and the sites where the medication is delivered. This assists in controlling the back pressure and thus minimizing the risk of an unequal amount of medication to be delivered to the two sites.

[**0190**] In another aspect of the present invention, the flexible diaphragm **336** includes an integrally molded O-ring **362** around its outer perimeter **364**. The O-ring **362** is press fit within a circular groove **366** in the valve housing **316**. The valve housing **316** includes one or more air release apertures **368** which allow air to escape the groove **366** as the O-ring **362** is pressed into the groove **366**. The O-ring **362** and the groove **366** ensures that the outer perimeter **364** is coupled to the valve housing, thereby forming the pressure chamber **322**.

[**0191**] In operation, the medication delivery system delivers medication through the inlet tube **312** in pulses. With reference to **FIG. 35**, when the flexible diaphragm **336** is in the closed position, the flexible diaphragm **336** creates a seal on the outlet valve seats. As fluid is pumped in, a pressure is created (Pinlet) within the pressure chamber **322**. With the flexible diaphragm **336** in the closed position, no flow of medication is allowed from the pressure chamber **322** to the output passageways **314A**, **314B**. Thus, while the flexible diaphragm **336** is in the closed position, the pressure at the outlet conduits **328A**, **328B** (Poutlet) is substantially zero.

[**0192**] When the "pulse" of medication from the medication delivery system begins, Pinlet quickly ramps up from a

non-zero value. When the force exerted by the pressurized medication within the pressure chamber **322** on the flexible diaphragm **336** is great enough to overcome the force exerted by the biasing mechanism **344**, the flexible diaphragm **336** is moved from the closed position towards the open position. After the flexible diaphragm **336** is moved away from the closed position, fluid flows out of the valve and pressure decays down towards a non-zero value until the force exerted by the biasing mechanism **344** overcomes the force exerted on the flexible diaphragm by the medication within the pressure chamber **322** such that the diaphragm closes over the passageways **314A**, **314B**. The rate of fluid flow and therefore pressure decrease is controlled by the restrictors **360A**, **360B**. This control is important since too low of a restriction would not force a complete opening of the valve. In that case the restriction of flow across the valve seats would be significant and minor variations in manufacturing tolerances and/or finishes would control the flow resistance and resultant distribution. With proper flow restrictor selection, the apparatus **310** fully opens and this does not occur.

[**0193**] Likewise, when the flexible diaphragm **36** is moved away from the closed position, Poutlet (in conduits **328A**, **328B**) quickly ramps up to a pressure substantially equal to or slightly less than Pinlet. While the flexible diaphragm **336** is open, Pinlet tracks Poutlet. Since the resistance seen within the first and second passageways **314A**, **314B** is a result of the resistance of the first and second orifices **360A**, **360B**, Poutlet at the first and second outlet passageways **314A**, **314B** are substantially equal. Once the flexible diaphragm **336** closes, Poutlet quickly drops back down to substantially zero.

[**0194**] The pulsing method discussed above may be used in applications in which the medication delivery system **10** delivers medicine to more than one site. The pulsing method may be used to control pressure and to facilitate the desired flow splitting characteristics. Additionally, the infusion tube set **14** may include enhanced features to provide controlled restriction and anti-siphoning characteristics. As described above, in one embodiment the infusion tube set **14** includes check valves and flow restrictors to provide the desired characteristics. In another embodiment, the infusion tube set includes the multiple site infusion apparatus **310**.

[**0195**] Returning to **FIGS. 4 and 5**, in one embodiment, the motor control circuit **242** includes the motor sensor **254** (see **FIG. 4**). The motor sensor **254** is coupled to the motor **42** and is adapted to detect a revolution of the motor **42** and to responsively generate a motor revolution signal in response to completion of the motor **42** revolution. In one embodiment, the motor sensor **254** is an opto-coupler sensor which is adapted to detect the presence of an indicating flag **260** (see **FIG. 5**) connected to the motor **42**. The indicating flag **260** extends from one of the first and second outside cams **64**, **66** to assist in monitoring the amount of the medication that has been delivered to the patient **12**. The sensor **254** is optically-coupled with the indicating flag **260** to count revolutions of the indicating flag **260**. One suitable sensor **254** is available from Omron of Schaumburg, Ill., as model no. EE-SX1109.

[**0196**] In one embodiment, the electronic controller **118** is adapted to reset the watchdog circuit **248** prior to sending control signals to the motor **42** control circuit to energize the

motor 42. The watchdog circuit 248 is adapted to place the second switch 252 in the opened state if two motor revolution signals are received without the watchdog circuit 248 being reset.

[0197] In other words, the electronic controller 118 must reset the watchdog circuit 248 prior to or between each revolution of the motor 42. Thus, if a failure of the electronic controller 118 or the microprocessor 244 erroneously causes a control signal to be delivered to the motor control circuit 242 to continuously place the first switch 246 in the closed state, and thus, to erroneously energize the motor 42, the second switch 252 will be placed in the opened state. With the second switch 252 in the opened state, power will not be delivered to the motor 42.

[0198] Additionally, if a failure of the first switch 246 leaves the first switch 246 in the closed state, successive motor revolution signals will be received by the watchdog circuit 248 without the watchdog circuit 248 being reset and the watchdog circuit 248 will place the second switch 252 in the opened state, thus preventing power from being supplied to the motor 42.

[0199] In one embodiment, the electronic controller 118 is adapted to track the time after a motor control signal has been sent and to enter a disabled state if the time between the sent control signal and received motor revolution signal exceeds a predetermined threshold.

[0200] With specific reference to FIG. 26, in one embodiment the monitor circuit 248 includes first and second flip-flops 262, 264. The first flip-flop 262 is coupled to the electronic controller 118 and the second flip-flop 264. The second flip-flop 264 is coupled to the second FET 258.

[0201] In the illustrated embodiment, the first and second flip-flops 262, 264 are JK flip-flops. The inverse output (Q) of the second flip-flop 264 is connected to the gate of the second FET 258. The clock input (CLK) of the second flip-flop 264 is coupled to the output (Q) of the first flip-flop 262. Power is supplied by the microprocessor 244 to the first and second flip-flops 262, 264 to the J and K inputs of the first flop 262 and to the J input of the second flip-flop 264. The drain of the second FET 258 is coupled to the first FET 256 and the source of the second FET 258 is connected to electrical ground.

[0202] The watchdog circuit 248 is reset by shutting off and restoring power to the first and second flip-flops 262, 264, to the J and K inputs of the first flop 262, and to the J input of the second flip-flop 264. In one embodiment, the electronic controller 118 shuts off power to the first and second flip-flops 262, 264 after each revolution of the motor 42 and supplies power prior to turning on the first switch 246 to begin the next cycle. This has two effects: conserving power and resetting the first and second flip-flops 262, 264.

[0203] The clock input (CLK) of the first flip-flop 262 is connected to the output of the motor sensor 254. The clock input (CLK) of the first flip-flop 262 is also connected to the microprocessor 244 via a third FET 266. The third FET 266 provides isolation between the microprocessor 244 and the motor sensor 254 and the monitor circuit 248. This isolation prevents a shorted pin on the electronic controller 118 from preventing revolution pulses from reaching the flip-flops 262, 264.

[0204] The inverse clear input (CLR) of the first and second flip-flops 262, 264 are coupled to the microprocessor 244 via a buffer circuit 268. In the illustrated embodiment, the buffer circuit 268 includes a first buffer 270, a first resistor 272 and a capacitor 274. The electronic controller 118 may continuously supply power to the motor 42 by turning on the first switch 246 and continuously resetting the first and second flip-flops 262, 264 through the inverse clear inputs without turning off power to the flip-flops 262, 264.

[0205] In one embodiment, the flip-flops 262, 264 are triggered by logic level high ("HIGH") to logic level low ("LOW") transitions. The buffer circuit 268 prevents erroneous signal transitions when the input to the buffer circuit 268 is held HIGH by the microprocessor 244.

[0206] With specific reference to FIG. 27, the motor control circuit 242 includes the first FET 256 and the opto-coupler sensor 276. A flashback diode 278 is coupled across first and second motor junctions 280A, 280B. The opto-coupler sensor 276 is coupled to the second motor junction 280B. The transmitting diode of the opto coupler sensor 276 is coupled to power (V+) and ground through switch 256. In this arrangement the sensor 276 is only powered during the time the motor 42 is running thus conserving battery life. An output of the opto-coupler sensor 276 is coupled to the third transistor 266 via a second buffer 282.

[0207] The gate of the first FET 256 is coupled to the microprocessor 244. The drain of the first FET 256 is coupled to the motor 42 and the source of the first FET 256 is connected to the drain of the second FET 258.

[0208] As described above, the electronic controller 118 is adapted to supply medication by energizing the motor 42. A desired flow rate is achieved by energizing the motor 42 and waiting between revolutions of the motor 42 for a calculated period of time. The motor 42 is energized by turning on the first FET 256. In the illustrated embodiment, the first FET 256 is turned on by the microprocessor 244 by changing the state of the gate of the first FET 256 from LOW to HIGH. If the second FET 258 is also on, then power flows through the motor 42 and the first and second FETs 256, 258. When the motor 42 has made one (1) complete revolution, then the output of the motor sensor 254 transitions from HIGH to LOW. In the illustrated embodiment, this transition is the motor revolution signal. The motor revolution signal is also transmitted to the microprocessor 244 via the third FET 266. After receiving the motor revolution signal the microprocessor 244 turns off the first FET 256 by changing the state of the gate of the first FET 256 from HIGH to LOW.

[0209] During normal operation, the microprocessor 244 then turns off power to the first and second flip-flops 262, 264. As described above, based on the desired flow rate and the known quantity of medication delivered per revolution of the motor 42, the microprocessor 244 calculates a wait period between motor revolutions. After the wait period (or right before the wait period ends), the microprocessor 244 restores power to the first and second flip-flops 262, 264. As discussed above, this resets the first and second flip-flops 262, 264. Then the microprocessor 244 may again turn on the first FET 256 to energize the motor 42.

[0210] If a failure condition of the control system 240 exists, such as a microprocessor 244 failure or other failure,

and the watchdog circuit 248 is not reset, then watchdog circuit 248 turns off the second FET 258, thereby preventing power from being supplied to the motor 42.

[0211] For example, if the microprocessor 244 fails while the first FET 256 is on, then the motor 42 will continue to be energized. The motor sensor 254 will generate motor revolution signals each time a motor revolution is completed. However, the microprocessor 244 does not or is unable to reset the watchdog circuit 248. Two successive motor revolution signals received on the CLK input of the first flip-flop 262 without the watchdog circuit 248 being reset will flip the inverse output of the second flip-flop 264 (from HIGH to LOW) and thus turn off the second FET 258.

[0212] Likewise, a failure of the first transistor 256 in the closed state will continuously energize the motor 42. If the microprocessor 244 does not reset the watchdog circuit 248, then successive motor revolution signals received on the CLK input of the first flip-flop 262 will flip the inverse output of the second flip-flop 264 and thus turn off the second FET 258.

[0213] With the second FET 258 in the off state, power will not be delivered to the motor 42.

[0214] Returning to FIG. 25, the control system 240 further includes a key 284 which is connected to the electronic controller 118 only during initialization. In one embodiment, the key 284 is part of the testing instrument 200 which is also used to test the control system 240 after it has been assembled and the batteries 45 are installed. Upon initial power-up, the control system 240 will only initialize if the key 284 is present. If the key 284 is not present, then the control system 240 enters a disabled mode and medication cannot be delivered.

[0215] In one embodiment, upon initial power-up the control system 240 sends a signal to the key 284. If present, the key 284 delivers a return signal to the control system 240 indicating its presence. The use of the key 284 ensures that the system 10 cannot be improperly reset by removing and then re-inserting the batteries 45 or other power supply 43. If this occurs and the key 284 is not present, the system 10 will not work.

[0216] The control system 240 includes a crystal 285 coupled to the microprocessor 244. The crystal 285 controls the frequency at which the microprocessor 244 operates in a conventional manner. However, if the crystal 285 is operating improperly, the microprocessor 244 could begin to operate at either a higher frequency or a lower frequency than intended. The microprocessor 244 also includes an internal oscillator 286. In one embodiment, the control system 240 is adapted to compare a frequency of the crystal 285 with a frequency associated with the internal oscillator 286. The electronic controller 118 adapted to compare a difference between the first and second frequencies and enter a disabled state if the difference is greater than a predetermined threshold. Thus, if the crystal 285 experiences a failure, the control system 10 will be disabled.

[0217] The invention has been described in an illustrative manner, and it is to be understood that the terminology which has been used is intended to be in the nature of words of description rather than of limitation.

[0218] Obviously, many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above

teachings. It is, therefore, to be understood that reference numerals are merely for convenience and are not to be in any way limiting, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described.

What is claimed is:

1. A medication delivery system, comprising:
 - a reservoir for storing a supply of medication;
 - a pump assembly being coupled to the reservoir and having a pump inlet and a pump outlet, the pump assembly being controllable to provide a flow of medication in the form of a series of pulses, the pump outlet being subdivided into a plurality of legs; and,
 - a controller coupled to the pump assembly for controlling the pump assembly, the controller receiving a desired flow of medication and responsively controlling the pump assembly to provide a series of pulses of medication to provide the desired flow of medication, wherein the series of pulses are determined to provide an outlet pressure at the pump outlet adapted to reduce an effect of any differential pressure between the legs.
2. A medication delivery system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the controller determines a period of time between a start of each pulse, wherein the period of time is determined such that each pulse begins before a predetermined drop in fluid pressure level occurs.
3. A medication delivery system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the series of pulses includes first and second groups of pulses, a start of each pulse within each group being separated by a first period of time and a start of the first pulse in each group being separated by a second period of time.
4. A medication delivery system, as set forth in claim 3, wherein each group has a predetermined number of pulses.
5. A medication delivery system, as set forth in claim 4, wherein the controller determines the second period as a function of the desired fluid flow.
6. A medication delivery system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the pump assembly includes:
 - a motor;
 - a cam shaft coupled to the motor; and,
 - first and second pinch levers in engagement with the cam shaft.
7. A medication delivery system, as set forth in claim 6, wherein each of the first and second pinch levers comprise a cam follower, said cam followers being engaged by said cam shaft for alternating movement of said first and second pinch levers between said open and closed positions such that the medication can be delivered to the patient.
8. A medication delivery system, as set forth in claim 7, wherein the pump assembly further includes a piston, the motor moving the piston to draw the medication into the pump assembly when the first pinch lever is in the open position and the second pinch lever is in the closed position, and to displace the medication from the pump assembly when the first pinch lever is in the closed position and said second pinch lever is in the open position.
9. A medication delivery system, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a multiple site infusion apparatus coupled between the pump outlet and the legs.
10. A medication delivery system, as set forth in claim 9, wherein the multiple site infusion apparatus includes:

- a valve housing having a first end and a second end, the first end including first and second outlet orifices; and,
- a flexible diaphragm coupled between the cap and the valve housing and being movable from a closed position to an open position, the flexible diaphragm sealing the pressure chamber from the first and second outlet passageways when in the closed position and opening the first and second passageways to the pressure chamber when in the open position, the second end of the valve housing and the flexible diaphragm forming a pressure chamber, the valve housing further including an inlet passageway coupled to the pressure chamber and at least one outlet passageway coupled to the pressure chamber.
- 11.** A medication delivery system, as set forth in claim 10, further including a cap having a closed end and an open end and being coupled to the valve housing at the open end.
- 12.** A medication delivery system, as set forth in claim 10, wherein the outlet passageways of the multiple site infusion apparatus contain restrictive orifices.
- 13.** A medication delivery system, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a valve system coupled to the pump outlet for providing flow restriction and anti-siphoning characteristics.
- 14.** A medication delivery system, as set forth in claim 13, the valve system including a divider for dividing the flow of medication into each leg and a check valve in each leg.
- 15.** A medication delivery system, as set forth in claim 13, wherein the valve system includes a divider for dividing the flow of medication into each leg and a flow restrictor in each leg.
- 16.** A method for delivering medication using a medication delivery system, including the steps of:
- storing a supply of medication;
 - receiving a desired flow rate of medication; and,
 - providing a flow of medication from the supply of medication in the form of a series of pulses, the flow being provided through an outlet and subdivided into a plurality of legs, wherein the series of pulses are determined to provide an outlet pressure at the pump outlet adapted to reduce an effect of any differential pressure between the legs.
- 17.** A method, as set forth in claim 13, including the step of determining a period of time between a start of each pulse, wherein the period of time is determined such that each pulse begins before a predetermined drop in fluid pressure level occurs.
- 18.** A method, as set forth in claim 14, wherein the series of pulses is subdivided into groups of pulses, a start of each pulse within each group being separated by a first period of time and a start of the first pulse in each group being separated by a second period of time.
- 19.** A method, as set forth in claim 14, wherein the second period of time is determined as a function of the desired fluid flow.

* * * * *