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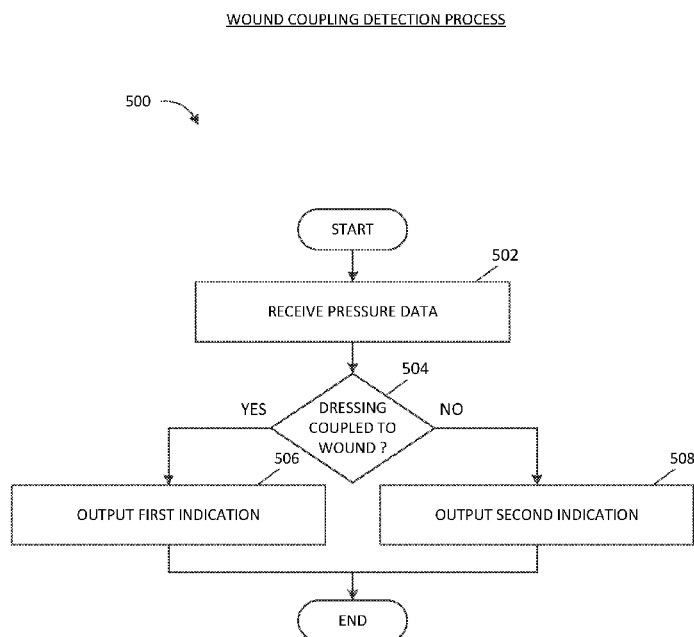


FIG. 5

(57) **Abstract:** Embodiments of negative pressure wound therapy systems and methods for operating the systems are disclosed. In some embodiments, a system includes a negative pressure source, a sensor, and a controller. The negative pressure source can provide negative pressure via a fluid flow path to the wound dressing. The sensor can monitor pressure in the fluid flow path. The controller can determine whether the wound dressing is coupled to a wound from a change in magnitude of pressure in the fluid flow path over time being more indicative of a steady state condition than a chaotic condition while the negative pressure source maintains negative pressure in the fluid flow path within a pressure range. In addition, the controller can output a first indication denoting that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound and a second indication denoting that the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound.



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AUTOMATIC WOUND COUPLING DETECTION IN NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY SYSTEMS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/335,978, filed May 13, 2016, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/378,856, filed August 24, 2016; the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Embodiments of the present disclosure relate to methods and apparatuses for dressing and treating a wound with negative or reduced pressure therapy or topical negative pressure (TNP) therapy. In particular, but without limitation, embodiments disclosed herein relate to negative pressure therapy devices, methods for controlling the operation of TNP systems, and methods of using TNP systems.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0003] Embodiments of the present disclosure will now be described hereinafter, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

[0004] Figure 1 illustrates a negative pressure wound therapy system according to some embodiments.

[0005] Figures 2A, 2B, and 2C illustrate a pump assembly and canister according to some embodiments.

[0006] Figures 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E, 3F, and 3G illustrate components of a negative pressure therapy system according to some embodiments.

[0007] Figure 4 illustrates components of a negative pressure therapy system that includes multiple sensors according to some embodiments.

[0008] Figure 5 illustrates a wound coupling detection process according to some embodiments.

[0009] Figures 6 and 7 illustrate example pressure versus time curves for a negative pressure therapy system according to some embodiments.

[0010] Figures 8, 9, and 10 illustrate variations due to a gas leak, change in fluid rate, and change in vacuum level according to some embodiments.

SUMMARY

[0011] According to one aspect, there is provided an apparatus for applying negative pressure to a wound. The apparatus includes: a negative pressure source configured to couple via a fluid flow path to a wound dressing and provide negative pressure to the wound dressing; a sensor configured to monitor pressure in the fluid flow path; and a controller configured to: determine that the wound dressing is coupled to a wound from a change in a magnitude of pressure in the fluid flow path over a time duration being indicative of a chaotic condition while the negative pressure source maintains negative pressure in the fluid flow path within a target pressure range, output a first indication denoting that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound, determine that the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound from the change in the magnitude of pressure in the fluid flow path over the time duration being indicative of a steady state condition while the negative pressure source maintains negative pressure in the fluid flow path within the target pressure range, and output a second indication different from the first indication denoting that the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound.

[0012] The apparatus of the preceding paragraph can include one or more of the following features: The controller may be further configured to: in response to the determination that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound, store, in a memory device, device usage data indicating a compliant use of the negative pressure source. The controller may be further configured to: in response to the determination that the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound, store, in a memory device, device usage data indicating a misuse use of the negative pressure source. The device usage data may comprise one or more of a pressure level, an

alarm, an exudate level, an event log, or a therapy duration. The controller may be further configured to compare a measure of irregularity of the change in the magnitude over the time duration to a threshold to determine whether the change in the magnitude over the time duration is indicative of the steady state condition. The measure of irregularity may be responsive to the change in the magnitude over the time duration of at least 1 second, 10 seconds, 30 seconds, 1 minute, or 5 minutes. The controller is further configured to: perform a statistical operation, a trending operation, a filtering operation, a cumulative summation operation, or a low-pass filtering operation on the magnitude over the time duration to generate an output value; and determine that the change in the magnitude over the time duration is indicative of the steady state condition in response to a determination that the output value is indicative of the steady state condition. The controller may be configured to determine that the change in the magnitude over the time duration is indicative of the steady state condition from a time domain representation of the magnitude over the time duration and a frequency domain representation of the magnitude over the time duration. The controller may be further configured to compare the magnitude over the time duration to a pressure pattern to determine whether the change in the magnitude over the time duration is indicative of the steady state condition. The pressure pattern may be indicative of pressure in the fluid flow path when the wound dressing is coupled to the wound while the negative pressure source maintains negative pressure in the fluid flow path within the target pressure range. The pressure pattern may be indicative of pressure in the fluid flow path when the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound while the negative pressure source maintains negative pressure in the fluid flow path within the target pressure range. The first indication denotes a compliant use of the negative pressure source, and the second indication denotes a non-compliant use of the negative pressure source. The controller may be further configured to: output the first indication for storage in a memory device, or output the second indication for storage in the memory device. The controller may be further configured to: output the first indication by causing a transmitter to transmit the first indication to a computing device via a communication network, or output the second indication by causing the transmitter to transmit the

second indication to the computing device via the communication network. The controller may be further configured to: output the first indication for presentation to a user, or output the second indication for presentation to the user. The fluid flow path may comprise at least one lumen. The fluid flow path may comprise a plurality of lumens. The controller may be configured to activate and deactivate the negative pressure source responsive to the first indication or the second indication. The negative pressure source may be configured to perform negative pressure therapy when the magnitude over the time duration is maintained within the target pressure range.

[0013] According to another aspect, there is provided a method of operating a negative pressure wound therapy apparatus is disclosed. The method includes: providing negative pressure to a wound dressing via a fluid flow path using a negative pressure source; monitoring with a sensor pressure in the fluid flow path; that the wound dressing is coupled to a wound from a change in a magnitude of pressure in the fluid flow path over a first time duration being indicative of a chaotic condition while maintaining negative pressure in the fluid flow path within a target pressure range; in response to determining that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound, outputting a first indication denoting that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound; and determining that the wound dressing is not coupled to a wound from a change in a magnitude of pressure in the fluid flow path over a second time duration being indicative of a steady state condition while maintaining negative pressure in the fluid flow path within the target pressure range; in response to determining that the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound, outputting a second indication different from the first indication denoting that the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound.

[0014] The method of the preceding paragraph can include one or more of the following features: The method can further include storing, in a memory device, device usage data associated with a compliant use of the negative pressure wound therapy apparatus in response to determining the wound dressing is coupled to the wound. The method can further include storing, in a memory device, device usage data associated with a misuse use of the negative pressure wound therapy

apparatus in response to determining the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound. The device usage data may comprise one or more of a pressure level, an alarm, an exudate level, an event log, or a therapy duration. Said determining may comprise comparing a measure of irregularity of the change in the magnitude over the time duration to a threshold. The measure of irregularity may be responsive to the change in the magnitude over the time duration of at least 1 second, 10 seconds, 30 seconds, 1 minute, or 5 minutes. The method can further include performing a statistical operation, a trending operation, a filtering operation, a cumulative summation operation, or a low-pass filtering operation on the magnitude over time to generate an output value, wherein said determining comprises determining whether the change in the magnitude over the time duration is indicative of the steady state condition in response to determining that the output value is indicative of the steady state condition. The method can further include comparing the magnitude over the time duration to a pressure pattern to determine whether the change in the magnitude over the time duration is indicative of the steady state condition.

[0015] Disclosed herein is also, an apparatus for applying negative pressure to a wound. The apparatus comprises: a negative pressure source configured to couple via a fluid flow path to a wound dressing and provide negative pressure to the wound dressing; a sensor configured to monitor pressure in the fluid flow path; and a controller configured to: based at least in part on the pressure in the fluid flow path, determine that the wound dressing is coupled to a wound based on at least one of detection of change in flow of gas in the fluid flow path, detection of change in flow of exudate in the fluid flow path, change in vacuum level in the fluid flow path, or detection of presence of blood in the fluid flow path, and output an indication that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound.

[0016] The apparatus of the preceding paragraph can include one or more of the following features: The controller may be configured to determine that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound further based on an activity level of the negative pressure source. The negative pressure source may comprise a pump operated by an actuator, and wherein the activity level comprises at least one of a

pump speed, a pulse width modulation (PWM) signal configured to drive the actuator, or a current signal configured to drive the actuator. The controller may be configured to determine a first indicator associated with change in the activity level over a time duration. The first indicator comprises a statistical indicator. The controller may be further configured to perform a time series analysis to determine if the first indicator deviates from a first threshold and in response to a determination that the first indicator deviates from the first threshold, determine that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound. The time series analysis may comprise determination of a cumulative sum (Cusum) of the first indicator. The Cusum of the first indicators may comprise a non-causal Cusum, sliding causal Cusum, or cumulative causal Cusum. The first indicator may comprise kurtosis of standard deviation of the activity level, and wherein the first indicator is indicative of a change in flow of exudate in the fluid flow path. The controller may be further configured to determine a cumulative sum (Cusum) of second indicator associated with change in the activity level over the time duration, the second indicator different from the first indicator. The second indicator may comprise standard deviation of the activity level indicative of a change in a gas leak rate in the fluid flow path, and the controller may be further configured to determine if the second indicator deviates from a second threshold and in response to a determination that the second indicator deviates from the second threshold, determine that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound. The controller may be further configured to determine a cumulative sum (Cusum) of third indicator associated with change in the pressure in the fluid flow path over the time duration, the third indicator different from the first and second indicators. The third indicator may comprise mean pressure in the fluid flow path indicative of a change in negative pressure in the fluid flow path, and the controller may be further configured to determine if the third indicator deviates from a third threshold and in response to a determination that the third indicator deviates from the third threshold, determine that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound.

[0017] Disclosed herein is also, a method for applying negative pressure to a wound is disclosed. The method can include: providing negative pressure with a negative pressure source to a wound dressing via a fluid flow path; monitoring

pressure in the fluid flow path; and based at least in part on the pressure in the fluid flow path, determining that the wound dressing is coupled to a wound from one of detection of change in flow of gas in the fluid flow path, detection of change in flow of exudate in the fluid flow path, change in vacuum level in the fluid flow path, or detection of presence of blood in the fluid flow path; and outputting an indication that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound.

[0018] The method of the preceding paragraph can include one or more of the following features: Said determining comprises determining that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound further from an activity level of the negative pressure source. The negative pressure source comprises a pump operated by an actuator, and the activity level comprises at least one of a pump speed, a pulse width modulation (PWM) signal configured to drive the actuator, or a current signal configured to drive the actuator. The method can further include determining a first indicator associated with change in the activity level over a time duration. The first indicator comprises a statistical indicator. The method can further include performing a time series analysis to determine if the first indicator deviates from a first threshold and, in response to determining that the first indicator deviates from the first threshold, determining that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound. The time series analysis comprises determination of a cumulative sum (Cusum) of the first indicator. The Cusum of the first indicators comprises a non-causal Cusum, sliding causal Cusum, or cumulative causal Cusum. The first indicator comprises kurtosis or standard deviation of the activity level, and the first indicator is indicative of a change in flow of exudate in the fluid flow path. The method can further include determining a cumulative sum (Cusum) of second indicator associated with change in the activity level over the time duration, the second indicator different from the first indicator. The second indicator comprises standard deviation of the activity level indicative of a change in a gas leak rate in the fluid flow path, and the method can further include determining if the second indicator deviates from a second threshold and, in response to determining that the second indicator deviates from the second threshold, determining that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound. The method can further include determining a cumulative sum (Cusum) of third indicator

associated with change in the pressure in the fluid flow path over the time duration, the third indicator different from the first and second indicators. The third indicator comprises mean pressure in the fluid flow path indicative of a change in negative pressure in the fluid flow path, and the method can further include determining if the third indicator deviates from a third threshold and, in response to determining that the third indicator deviates from the third threshold, determining that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0019] The present disclosure relates to methods and apparatuses for dressing and treating a wound with reduced pressure therapy or topical negative pressure (TNP) therapy. In particular, but without limitation, embodiments of this disclosure relate to negative pressure therapy apparatuses, methods for controlling the operation of TNP systems, and methods of using TNP systems. The methods and apparatuses can incorporate or implement any combination of the features described below.

[0020] TNP therapy can assist in the closure and healing of many forms of “hard to heal” wounds by reducing tissue oedema, encouraging blood flow and granular tissue formation, or removing excess exudate and can reduce bacterial load (and thus infection risk). In addition, TNP therapy may allow for less disturbance of a wound leading to more rapid healing. TNP systems can also assist in the healing of surgically closed wounds by removing fluid or help to stabilize the tissue in the apposed position of closure. A further beneficial use of TNP therapy can be found in grafts and flaps where removal of excess fluid is important and close proximity of the graft to tissue is required in order to ensure tissue viability.

[0021] As is used herein, reduced or negative pressure levels, such as $-X$ mmHg, represent pressure levels that are below atmospheric pressure, which typically corresponds to 760 mmHg (or 1 atm, 29.93 inHg, 101.325 kPa, 14.696 psi, etc.). Accordingly, a negative pressure value of $-X$ mmHg reflects pressure that is X mmHg below atmospheric pressure, such as a pressure of $(760-X)$ mmHg. In addition, negative pressure that is “less” or “smaller” than $-X$ mmHg corresponds to

pressure that is closer to atmospheric pressure (e.g., -40 mmHg is less than -60 mmHg). Negative pressure that is “more” or “greater” than -X mmHg corresponds to pressure that is further from atmospheric pressure (e.g., -80 mmHg is more than -60 mmHg).

Overview

[0022] It may be difficult, in some instances, to confirm whether a negative pressure source, such as a pump, of a TNP apparatus (sometimes referred to herein as a pump assembly) is in use on a patient. A TNP apparatus can log the usage of its negative pressure source as a function of time between the activation and deactivation of the negative pressure source, as well as log events such as alarms, measured pressure, or changes to a therapy program administered by the TNP apparatus. However, the time between the activation and deactivation and the log events may not enable the TNP apparatus to confidently determine whether the negative pressure source is activated but not coupled via a fluid flow path to a wound. The TNP apparatus may, for instance, be unable to distinguish with confidence whether the negative pressure source is being used to treat a wound or instead being used while uncoupled from a wound and simply placed aside or in storage with the wound dressing not forming a substantially fluid tight seal over any surface or forming the seal over a surface other than tissue of the patient (for example, the dressing may be positioned over a table, door, etc.). Moreover, the TNP apparatus may be used for training, tampered with in a way that impacts treatment, or it may take a long time to set up use on a patient. As a result, it may be difficult to distinguish data collected from such uses or situations and data collected from treatment use on the patient.

[0023] In order to accurately understand the usage of a TNP apparatus, it can be desirable to know with greater confidence if a negative pressure source of the TNP apparatus is in use on a patient. For example, it may be desirable to monitor compliance of use of the TNP apparatus and thus to determine whether the TNP apparatus is being used in a complaint manner, such as to treat a wound, or

instead being used in a non-compliant manner, such as being turned on but left unconnected to a wound.

[0024] Advantageously, in certain embodiments, a TNP apparatus can automatically detect whether a negative pressure source of TNP apparatus is coupled via a fluid flow path to a wound, such as the wound cavity 110. As a result, the TNP apparatus can automatically determine whether the TNP apparatus is in use on a patient and thus used in a compliant manner. This automatic determination by the TNP apparatus can moreover enable data collected by the TNP apparatus for diagnosis or compliance of the patient to be validated as resulting from therapeutic use on the patient.

[0025] In one implementation, a TNP apparatus can analyze a magnitude of pressure (such as by measuring raw peak-to-peak pressure readings) in a TNP system that includes the TNP apparatus to determine whether the negative pressure source is pumping on or against a wound dressing coupled to a wound, such as the wound cover 120 and the wound filler 130 coupled to the wound cavity 110, or against its own system (for example, the negative pressure source or the wound dressing may be left uncoupled or instead may be coupled to something other than a wound like an inanimate object). When the negative pressure source may be maintaining pressure against its own system rather than against the wound dressing coupled to the wound, the magnitude of pressure in the TNP system can relatively quickly begin to follow a regular pattern or reach a steady state condition because there may be no liquid moving through the TNP system and the TNP system may not be moving or flexing irregularly. The TNP apparatus can accordingly determine whether the change in the magnitude of pressure in the TNP system follows an irregular pattern or a chaotic condition indicative of use of the TNP apparatus on a patient or a regular pattern or a steady state condition not indicative of use of the TNP apparatus on a patient.

[0026] Moreover, a TNP apparatus can analyze artifacts in a pressure signal to determine whether the negative pressure source is pumping against a wound dressing coupled to a wound. The artifacts can be produced by mechanical or fluidic changes in a TNP system that includes the TNP apparatus. For example,

mechanical movement at a wound (for example, due to patient's movement) coupled to a wound dressing can manifest as an artifact in the pressure signal. As another example, liquid passage in the TNP system can manifest as an artifact in the pressure signal. Notably, some artifacts may appear to be random while other artifacts, such as from pulse or respiration, may follow a substantially periodic pattern.

Negative Pressure System

[0027] Figure 1 illustrates an embodiment of a negative or reduced pressure wound treatment (or TNP) system 100 comprising a wound filler 130 placed inside a wound cavity 110, the wound cavity sealed by a wound cover 120. The wound filler 130 in combination with the wound cover 120 can be referred to as wound dressing. A single or multi lumen tube or conduit 140 is connected the wound cover 120 with a pump assembly 150 configured to supply reduced pressure. The wound cover 120 can be in fluidic communication with the wound cavity 110. In any of the system embodiments disclosed herein, as in the embodiment illustrated in Figure 1, the pump assembly can be a canisterless pump assembly (meaning that exudate is collected in the wound dressing or is transferred via tube 140 for collection to another location). However, any of the pump assembly embodiments disclosed herein can be configured to include or support a canister. Additionally, in any of the system embodiments disclosed herein, any of the pump assembly embodiments can be mounted to or supported by the dressing, or adjacent to the dressing.

[0028] The wound filler 130 can be any suitable type, such as hydrophilic or hydrophobic foam, gauze, inflatable bag, and so on. The wound filler 130 can be conformable to the wound cavity 110 such that it substantially fills the cavity. The wound cover 120 can provide a substantially fluid impermeable seal over the wound cavity 110. The wound cover 120 can have a top side and a bottom side, and the bottom side adhesively (or in any other suitable manner) seals with wound cavity 110. The conduit 140 or lumen or any other conduit or lumen disclosed herein can

be formed from polyurethane, PVC, nylon, polyethylene, silicone, or any other suitable material.

[0029] Some embodiments of the wound cover 120 can have a port (not shown) configured to receive an end of the conduit 140. For example, the port can be Renays Soft Port available from Smith & Nephew. In other embodiments, the conduit 140 can otherwise pass through or under the wound cover 120 to supply reduced pressure to the wound cavity 110 so as to maintain a desired level of reduced pressure in the wound cavity. The conduit 140 can be any suitable article configured to provide at least a substantially sealed fluid flow pathway between the pump assembly 150 and the wound cover 120, so as to supply the reduced pressure provided by the pump assembly 150 to wound cavity 110.

[0030] The wound cover 120 and the wound filler 130 can be provided as a single article or an integrated single unit. In some embodiments, no wound filler is provided and the wound cover by itself may be considered the wound dressing. The wound dressing may then be connected, via the conduit 140, to a source of negative pressure, such as the pump assembly 150. The pump assembly 150 can be miniaturized and portable, although larger conventional pumps such can also be used.

[0031] The wound cover 120 can be located over a wound site to be treated. The wound cover 120 can form a substantially sealed cavity or enclosure over the wound site. In some embodiments, the wound cover 120 can be configured to have a film having a high water vapor permeability to enable the evaporation of surplus fluid, and can have a superabsorbing material contained therein to safely absorb wound exudate. It will be appreciated that throughout this specification reference is made to a wound. In this sense it is to be understood that the term wound is to be broadly construed and encompasses open and closed wounds in which skin is torn, cut or punctured or where trauma causes a contusion, or any other surficial or other conditions or imperfections on the skin of a patient or otherwise that benefit from reduced pressure treatment. A wound is thus broadly defined as any damaged region of tissue where fluid may or may not be produced. Examples of such wounds include, but are not limited to, acute wounds, chronic

wounds, surgical incisions and other incisions, subacute and dehiscent wounds, traumatic wounds, flaps and skin grafts, lacerations, abrasions, contusions, burns, diabetic ulcers, pressure ulcers, stoma, surgical wounds, trauma and venous ulcers or the like. The components of the TNP system described herein can be particularly suited for incisional wounds that exude a small amount of wound exudate.

[0032] Some embodiments of the system are designed to operate without the use of an exudate canister. Some embodiments can be configured to support an exudate canister. In some embodiments, configuring the pump assembly 150 and tubing 140 so that the tubing 140 can be quickly and easily removed from the pump assembly 150 can facilitate or improve the process of dressing or pump changes, if necessary. Any of the pump embodiments disclosed herein can be configured to have any suitable connection between the tubing and the pump.

[0033] The pump assembly 150 can be configured to deliver negative pressure of approximately -80 mmHg, or between about -20 mmHg and 200 mmHg in some implementations. Note that these pressures are relative to normal ambient atmospheric pressure thus, -200 mmHg would be about 560 mmHg in practical terms. The pressure range can be between about -40 mmHg and -150 mmHg. Alternatively a pressure range of up to -75 mmHg, up to -80 mmHg or over -80 mmHg can be used. Also a pressure range of below -75 mmHg can be used. Alternatively a pressure range of over approximately -100 mmHg, or even 150 mmHg, can be supplied by the pump assembly 150.

[0034] In operation, the wound filler 130 is inserted into the wound cavity 110 and wound cover 120 is placed so as to seal the wound cavity 110. The pump assembly 150 provides a source of a negative pressure to the wound cover 120, which is transmitted to the wound cavity 110 via the wound filler 130. Fluid (e.g., wound exudate) is drawn through the conduit 140, and can be stored in a canister. In some embodiments, fluid is absorbed by the wound filler 130 or one or more absorbent layers (not shown).

[0035] Wound dressings that may be utilized with the pump assembly and other embodiments of the present application include Renasys-F, Renasys-G, Renasys AB, and Pico Dressings available from Smith & Nephew. Further

description of such wound dressings and other components of a negative pressure wound therapy system that may be used with the pump assembly and other embodiments of the present application are found in U.S. Patent Publication Nos. 2011/0213287, 2011/0282309, 2012/0116334, 2012/0136325, and 2013/0110058, which are incorporated by reference in their entirety. In other embodiments, other suitable wound dressings can be utilized.

[0036] Figure 2A illustrates a front view of a pump assembly 230 and canister 220 according to some embodiments. As is illustrated, the pump assembly 230 and the canister are connected, thereby forming a negative pressure wound therapy device. The pump assembly 230 can be similar to or the same as the pump assembly 150 in some embodiments.

[0037] The pump assembly 230 includes one or more indicators, such as visual indicator 202 configured to indicate alarms and visual indicator 204 configured to indicate status of the TNP system. The indicators 202 and 204 can be configured to alert a user, such as patient or medical care provider, to a variety of operating or failure conditions of the system, including alerting the user to normal or proper operating conditions, pump failure, power supplied to the pump or power failure, detection of a leak within the wound cover or flow pathway, suction blockage, or any other similar or suitable conditions or combinations thereof. The pump assembly 230 can comprise additional indicators. The pump assembly can use a single indicator or multiple indicators. Any suitable indicator can be used such as visual, audio, tactile indicator, and so on. The indicator 202 can be configured to signal alarm conditions, such as canister full, power low, conduit 140 disconnected, seal broken in the wound seal 120, and so on. The indicator 202 can be configured to display red flashing light to draw user's attention. The indicator 204 can be configured to signal status of the TNP system, such as therapy delivery is ok, leak detected, and so on. The indicator 204 can be configured to display one or more different colors of light, such as green, yellow, etc. For example, green light can be emitted when the TNP system is operating properly and yellow light can be emitted to indicate a warning.

[0038] The pump assembly 230 includes a display or screen 206 mounted in a recess 208 formed in a case of the pump assembly. The display 206 can be a touch screen display. The display 206 can support playback of audiovisual (AV) content, such as instructional videos. As explained below, the display 206 can be configured to render a number of screens or graphical user interfaces (GUIs) for configuring, controlling, and monitoring the operation of the TNP system. The pump assembly 230 comprises a gripping portion 210 formed in the case of the pump assembly. The gripping portion 210 can be configured to assist the user to hold the pump assembly 230, such as during removal of the canister 220. The canister 220 can be replaced with another canister, such as when the canister 220 has been filled with fluid.

[0039] The pump assembly 230 includes one or more keys or buttons configured to allow the user to operate and monitor the operation of the TNP system. As is illustrated, there buttons 212a, 212b, and 212c (collectively referred to as buttons 212) are included. Button 212a can be configured as a power button to turn on/off the pump assembly 230. Button 212b can be configured as a play/pause button for the delivery of negative pressure therapy. For example, pressing the button 212b can cause therapy to start, and pressing the button 212b afterward can cause therapy to pause or end. Button 212c can be configured to lock the display 206 or the buttons 212. For instance, button 212c can be pressed so that the user does not unintentionally alter the delivery of the therapy. Button 212c can be depressed to unlock the controls. In other embodiments, additional buttons can be used or one or more of the illustrated buttons 212a, 212b, or 212c can be omitted. Multiple key presses or sequences of key presses can be used to operate the pump assembly 230.

[0040] The pump assembly 230 includes one or more latch recesses 222 formed in the cover. In the illustrated embodiment, two latch recesses 222 can be formed on the sides of the pump assembly 230. The latch recesses 222 can be configured to allow attachment and detachment of the canister 220 using one or more canister latches 221. The pump assembly 230 comprises an air outlet 224 for allowing air removed from the wound cavity 110 to escape. Air entering the pump

assembly can be passed through one or more suitable filters, such as antibacterial filters. This can maintain reusability of the pump assembly. The pump assembly 230 includes one or more strap mounts 226 for connecting a carry strap to the pump assembly 230 or for attaching a cradle. In the illustrated embodiment, two strap mounts 226 can be formed on the sides of the pump assembly 230. In some embodiments, various of these features are omitted or various additional features are added to the pump assembly 230.

[0041] The canister 220 is configured to hold fluid (e.g., exudate) removed from the wound cavity 110. The canister 220 includes one or more latches 221 for attaching the canister to the pump assembly 230. In the illustrated embodiment, the canister 220 comprises two latches 221 on the sides of the canister. The exterior of the canister 220 can be formed from frosted plastic so that the canister is substantially opaque and the contents of the canister are substantially hidden from plain view. The canister 220 comprises a gripping portion 214 formed in a case of the canister. The gripping portion 214 can be configured to allow the user to hold the pump assembly 220, such as during removal of the canister from the apparatus 230. The canister 220 includes a substantially transparent window 216, which can also include graduations of volume. For example, the illustrated 300 mL canister 220 includes graduations of 50 mL, 100 mL, 150 mL, 200 mL, 250 mL, and 300 mL. Other embodiments of the canister can hold different volume of fluid and can include different graduation scale. For example, the canister can be an 800 mL canister. The canister 220 comprises a tubing channel 218 for connecting to the conduit 140. In some embodiments, various of these features, such as the gripping portion 214, are omitted or various additional features are added to the canister 220. Any of the disclosed canisters may include or may omit a solidifier.

[0042] Figure 2B illustrates a rear view of the pump assembly 230 and canister 220 according to some embodiments. The pump assembly 230 comprises a speaker port 232 for producing sound. The pump assembly 230 includes a filter access door 234 with a screw for removing the access door 234, accessing, and replacing one or more filters, such as antibacterial or odor filters. The pump assembly 230 comprises a gripping portion 236 formed in the case of the pump

assembly. The gripping portion 236 can be configured to allow the user to hold the pump assembly 230, such as during removal of the canister 220. The pump assembly 230 includes one or more covers 238 configured to as screw covers or feet or protectors for placing the pump assembly 230 on a surface. The covers 230 can be formed out of rubber, silicone, or any other suitable material. The pump assembly 230 comprises a power jack 239 for charging and recharging an internal battery of the pump assembly. The power jack 239 can be a direct current (DC) jack. In some embodiments, the pump assembly can comprise a disposable power source, such as batteries, so that no power jack is needed.

[0043] The canister 220 includes one or more feet 244 for placing the canister on a surface. The feet 244 can be formed out of rubber, silicone, or any other suitable material and can be angled at a suitable angle so that the canister 220 remains stable when placed on the surface. The canister 220 comprises a tube mount relief 246 configured to allow one or more tubes to exit to the front of the device. The canister 220 includes a stand or kickstand 248 for supporting the canister when it is placed on a surface. As explained below, the kickstand 248 can pivot between an opened and closed position. In closed position, the kickstand 248 can be latched to the canister 220. In some embodiments, the kickstand 248 can be made out of opaque material, such as plastic. In other embodiments, the kickstand 248 can be made out of transparent material. The kickstand 248 includes a gripping portion 242 formed in the kickstand. The gripping portion 242 can be configured to allow the user to place the kickstand 248 in the closed position. The kickstand 248 comprises a hole 249 to allow the user to place the kickstand in the open position. The hole 249 can be sized to allow the user to extend the kickstand using a finger.

[0044] Figure 2C illustrates a view of the pump assembly 230 separated from the canister 220 according to some embodiments. The pump assembly 230 includes a vacuum attachment, connector, or inlet 252 through which a vacuum pump communicates negative pressure to the canister 220. The pump assembly aspirates fluid, such as gas, from the wound via the inlet 252. The pump assembly 230 comprises a USB access door 256 configured to allow access to one or more

USB ports. In some embodiments, the USB access door is omitted and USB ports are accessed through the door 234. The pump assembly 230 can include additional access doors configured to allow access to additional serial, parallel, or hybrid data transfer interfaces, such as SD, Compact Disc (CD), DVD, FireWire, Thunderbolt, PCI Express, and the like. In other embodiments, one or more of these additional ports are accessed through the door 234.

[0045] Figure 3A illustrates components of a negative pressure therapy system 300A that includes a TNP apparatus 310 and a remote data processing system 320. The TNP apparatus 310 can be used to treat a wound using a wound dressing that is in fluidic communication with the TNP apparatus 310 via a fluid flow path. The TNP apparatus 310 can include a controller 311, a memory device 312, a negative pressure source 313, a user interface 314, a power source 315, a pressure sensor 316, and a transceiver 317 that are configured to electrically communicate with one another. The power source 315 can provide power to one or more components of the TNP apparatus 310. The TNP apparatus 310 can operate at the pressure levels and using control approaches as described herein or similar to those described in U.S. Patent Publication Nos. 2016/0136339 and 2016/0184496, which are incorporated by reference in their entirety. The TNP apparatus 310 can be similar to or the same as the pump assembly 150 in some embodiments.

[0046] The controller 311 can control operations of one or more other components of the TNP apparatus 310 according at least to instructions stored in the memory device 312. The controller 311 can, for instance, control operations of and supply of negative pressure by the negative pressure source 313. The negative pressure source 313 can include a pump, such as, without limitation, a rotary diaphragm pump or other diaphragm pump, a piezoelectric pump, a peristaltic pump, a piston pump, a rotary vane pump, a liquid ring pump, a scroll pump, a diaphragm pump operated by a piezoelectric transducer, or any other suitable pump or micropump or any combinations of the foregoing.

[0047] The user interface 314 can include one or more elements that receive user inputs or provide user outputs to a patient or caregiver. The one or more elements that receive user inputs can include buttons, switches, dials, touch

screens, or the like. The user interface 314 can, for example, be used to generate and display a report or other information reflecting data from therapy use, data from non-compliant use, or a comparison of data from therapy use versus non-compliant use. As another example, the user interface 314 may receive a user input providing a patient reference number or another unique identifier, and the TNP apparatus 310 may then be activated for use by the patient and data collected and stored as described herein may be associated with the patient reference number for usage monitoring for a particular patient.

[0048] The pressure sensor 316 can be used to monitor pressure underneath a wound dressing, such as (i) pressure in a fluid flow path connecting the negative pressure source 313 and the wound dressing as illustrated by Figure 3B, (ii) pressure at the wound dressing as illustrated by Figure 3C, or (iii) pressure at or in the negative pressure source 313 as illustrated by Figure 3D. As the negative pressure source 313 provides negative pressure, the negative pressure source 313 may generate pressure pulses that are propagated through the fluid flow path and detected by the pressure sensor 316. These pressure pulses may show as a change or bounce in the magnitude or frequency of a signal from the pressure sensor 316.

[0049] The controller 311 can analyze a signal output by the pressure sensor 316 to determine pressure in the fluid flow path. The controller 311 may examine the signal using one or more approaches including time domain or frequency domain calculations, such as with a digital signal processor.

[0050] The controller 311 or other circuitry of the TNP apparatus 310 may process one or more signals output by the pressure sensor 316 by filtering out noise and then dynamically amplifying the filtered one or more signals. Dynamic amplification can be performed without filtering. This may enable the features described herein to be applied to smaller wounds or weaker pressure signals. For example, the amplification can be performed by a programmable gain amplifier, which may be controlled by software or hardware.

[0051] The detection of pressure by the pressure sensor 316 can, in some instances, be enhanced by changing one or more settings of the negative pressure

source 313, such as increasing or decreasing vacuum level delivered by the negative pressure source 313, stopping the negative pressure source 313, changing an operating speed of the negative pressure source 313, changing a cadence of the negative pressure source 313, combinations of the same, or the like. The controller 311 can, for example, automatically manage adjustment of the one or more settings.

[0052] In some implementations, the pressure sensor 316 can be used in combination with another pressure sensor so that the at least two pressure sensors that are positioned in or fluidically connected to the fluid flow path to permit differential measurement of the pressure, such as illustrated by Figure 3E. For example, a first pressure sensor can be positioned upstream of the wound (such as at or near the inlet of the negative pressure source 313C) and a second pressure sensor can be positioned to detect pressure at or near the wound or at or near a canister. This configuration can be accomplished by incorporating, in addition to one or more lumens forming a first fluid flow path connecting the negative pressure source 313 to the wound, a second fluid flow path that includes one or more lumens connecting the TNP apparatus 310 to the wound and through which the second pressure sensor can monitor pressure at or near the wound or at or near a canister. The first and second fluid flow paths can be fluidically isolated from each other. When the at least two pressure sensors are used, the rate of change of pressure (for example, in peak-to-peak pressure or maximum pressure) in the first and second fluid flow paths can be determined and the difference in pressure detected between the first and second pressure sensors can be determined. These values can be used separately or together to detect various operational conditions, such as leaks, blockages, canister full, presence of blood in the first fluid flow path or the second fluid flow path, etc. In some implementations, multiple redundant pressure sensors can be provided to protect against failure of one or more of the pressure sensors.

[0053] The transceiver 317 can be used to communicate with the data processing system 320 via a network 330. The transceiver 317 can, for example, transmit device usage data like alarms, measured pressure, or changes to a therapy program administered by the TNP apparatus 310 to the data processing system

320. The network 330 can be a communication network, such as a wireless communications network like a cellular communications network. The memory device 312 can be used to store the device usage data that may be transmitted by the transceiver 317.

[0054] The data processing system 320 can, in some implementations, analyze pressure data received from the transceiver 317 to determine whether the received pressure data is indicative of the negative pressure source 313 being in use on a patient, such as using analysis approaches as described with respect to the TNP apparatus 310. The data processing system 320 can, for instance, generate and display a report or other information reflecting data from therapy use, data from non-compliant use, or a comparison of data from therapy use versus non-compliant use. In one example, a user of the data processing system 320 may input a patient reference number or TNP apparatus number associated with a TNP apparatus, and the data processing system 320 can then provide or display data like data from therapy use or data from non-compliant use for the patient reference number or TNP apparatus number.

[0055] Figure 3B illustrates a negative pressure therapy system 300B that includes the TNP apparatus 310 of Figure 3A, as well as a first fluid flow path 340A, a wound dressing 350, and a wound 360. The TNP apparatus 310 can be used to treat the wound 360 using the wound dressing 350 that is in fluidic communication with the negative pressure source 313 via the first fluid flow path 340A. In particular, Figure 3B depicts that the pressure sensor 316 can be positioned in the first fluid flow path 340A, such as at or near an inlet of the TNP apparatus 310, to measure pressure in the first fluid flow path 340A.

[0056] Figure 3C illustrates a negative pressure therapy system 300C that differs from the negative pressure therapy system 300B in that the pressure sensor 316 can instead be positioned to measure pressure at or near the wound dressing 350, such as pressure underneath the wound dressing 350 when the wound dressing 350 is coupled to the wound 360.

[0057] Figure 3D illustrates a negative pressure therapy system 300D that differs from the negative pressure therapy system 300B in that the pressure sensor

316 can instead be positioned to measure pressure at the negative pressure source 313. In one example, the pressure sensor 316 can be a part of and within the negative pressure source 313 to measure pressure generated by the negative pressure source 313. In another example, the pressure sensor 316 can be separate from the negative pressure source 313 and positioned to measure pressure at or near an inlet of the negative pressure source 313.

[0058] Figure 3E illustrates a negative pressure therapy system 300E that differs from the negative pressure therapy system 300B in that the negative pressure therapy system 300E further includes a second fluid flow path 340B, and the pressure sensor 316 can be a differential pressure sensor or include two pressure sensors. If the pressure sensor 316 may include the two pressure sensors, one of the two pressure sensors of the pressure sensor 316 can be positioned in the first fluid flow path 340A to measure pressure in the first fluid flow path 340A, and the other of the two pressure sensors the pressure sensor 316 can be positioned in the second fluid flow path 340B to measure pressure in the second fluid flow path 340B. If the pressure sensor 316 may be the differential pressure sensor, the pressure sensor 316 can be fluidically connected to the first fluid flow path 340A and the second fluid flow path 340B. The first fluid flow path 340A can thus be used by the negative pressure source 313 to provide negative pressure to the wound dressing 350, and the second fluid flow path 340B can be used primarily by the pressure sensor 316 to measure pressure at or near the wound dressing 350, such as under the wound dressing 360. The pressure sensor 316 can thereby be used by the TNP apparatus 310 to perform differential measurement of pressure between pressure supplied by the negative pressure source 313 and pressure at or near the wound dressing 350.

[0059] Figure 3F illustrates a negative pressure therapy system 300F that differs from the negative pressure therapy system 300B in that the negative pressure therapy system 300F can further include an additional pressure sensor 370 positioned to measure pressure at or near the wound dressing 350, such as pressure underneath the wound dressing 350 when the wound dressing 350 is coupled to the wound 360. The additional pressure sensor 370 can generate and

output a signal to the TNP apparatus 310 responsive to the pressure measured at the wound dressing 350. The pressure sensor 316 and the additional pressure sensor 370 can thus be used by the TNP apparatus 310 to perform differential measurement of pressure between pressure supplied by the negative pressure source 313 and pressure at or near the wound dressing 350.

[0060] Figure 3G illustrates a negative pressure therapy system 300G that differs from the negative pressure therapy system 300B in that a canister 380 can be coupled between the negative pressure source 313 and the wound dressing 350 in the first fluid flow path 340A. The canister 380 can collect exudate removed from the wound 360. The examples of Figures 3C-3F can be similarly modified to also include the canister 380, in some implementations.

[0061] Figure 4 illustrates a negative pressure therapy system 400 that includes a TNP apparatus 410 and sensors 420A, 420B, ..., 420N. The sensors 420A, 420B, ..., 420N can advantageously be used, in certain embodiments, to confirm coupling to or use of the TNP apparatus 410 on a patient. The TNP apparatus 410 can be similar to or the same as the TNP apparatus 310 in some embodiments. One of the sensors 420A, 420B, ..., 420N can be similar to or the same as the pressure sensor 316 in some embodiments. One of the sensors 420A, 420B, ..., 420N can be similar to or the same as the pressure sensor 370 in some embodiments.

[0062] The sensors 420A, 420B, ..., 420N can be respectively detecting from contact sites 430A, 430B, ..., 430N of the patient or responsive to the patient. The sensor 420A can, for instance, be detecting from the contact site 430A, and the sensor 420B can be detecting from the contact site 430B while the sensor 420N can be detecting from the contact site 430N. The contact sites 430A, 430B, ..., 430N can include tissue sites of the patient (for instance, an internal or external tissue of the patient at a wound, a limb, or a head of the patient), items attached to the patient (for instance, clothing or jewelry), or part of the TNP apparatus 410 or a related component like a canister. One or more of the sensors 420A, 420B, ..., 420N may be incorporated as part of the wound dressing or configured to couple to the wound dressing.

[0063] The sensors 420A, 420B, ..., 420N can include, for example, one or more of a pressure sensor, an acoustic sensor, a chemical sensor, an electric current sensor, electric potential sensor, an impedance sensor, a magnetic sensor, an optical sensor, a color sensor, a pressure sensor, a piezoelectric sensor, a thermometer, a thermal sensor, a proximity sensor, a biosensor, a strain gauge, combinations of the same, or the like. The sensors 420A, 420B, ..., 420N can be the same sensors placed to detect at different locations or different sensors in some implementations.

[0064] Each of the sensors 420A, 420B, ..., 420N can transmit, via wireless or wired communication, one or more signals responsive to a corresponding monitored one of the contact sites 430A, 430B, ..., 430N to the TNP apparatus 410. The one or more signals can, for instance, be responsive to a physiological condition of the patient or movement by the patient. In turn, the TNP apparatus 410 can process the one or more signals to determine whether the one or more signals from two or more of the sensors 420A, 420B, ..., 420N indicate that the TNP apparatus 410 or related component like a wound dressing is coupled to the patient or in compliant use on the patient. The TNP apparatus 410 can, for example, determine whether each or at least a subset of two or more of the sensors 420A, 420B, ..., 420N provide physiologically acceptable signals (for example, signals responsive to patient activity like patient respiration, pulse, or motion) to the TNP apparatus 410 that indicate successful coupling to or association of the TNP apparatus 410 with the patient.

Wound Coupling Detection

[0065] Figure 5 illustrates a wound coupling detection process 500 performable by a device, such as the pump assembly 150 of Figure 1, the pump assembly 230 of Figure 2A-C, the TNP apparatus 310 of Figure 3A, or other pump assemblies like those described in U.S. Patent Publication Nos. 2016/0136339 and 2016/0184496 that were previously incorporated herein by reference in their entireties. For convenience, the wound coupling detection process 500 is described

in the context of the TNP apparatus 310 of Figure 3A, but may instead be implemented in other systems described herein or by other systems not shown.

[0066] The wound coupling detection process 500 can enable the TNP apparatus 310 to automatically determine whether a wound dressing coupled to the TNP apparatus 310 is coupled to a wound of a patient. The TNP apparatus 310 can advantageously, in certain embodiments, output a first indication when the wound dressing is determined to be coupled to a wound or a second indication different from the first indication when the wound dressing is determined not to be coupled to a wound.

[0067] At block 502, the process 500 can receive pressure data. For example, the controller 311 can receive pressure data indicative of a magnitude of pressure measured in a fluid flow path coupling the negative pressure source 313 to a wound dressing. The pressure can be measured, for instance, by the pressure sensor 316 using measurement approaches as described herein or in U.S. Patent Publication Nos. 2016/0136339 and 2016/0184496, which were previously incorporated herein by reference in their entireties. The pressure sensor 316 can communicate information via a wire or wirelessly to the controller 311. In certain implementations, the pressure sensor 316 can be positioned at or near the wound and wirelessly communicate information to the controller 311. In some embodiments, pressure sensor data includes one or more magnitudes of pressure measured over a duration of time, such as 0.5 seconds, 1 second, 3 seconds, and the like.

[0068] At block 504, the process 500 can determine whether a dressing is coupled to a wound. For instance, the controller 311 can determine from the pressure data, such as from a change in the magnitude over time, whether the wound dressing is coupled to a wound of a patient.

[0069] In one example, the controller 311 can compare a measure of the irregularity of the change in the magnitude over time to one or more thresholds to determine whether wound dressing is coupled to the wound (and in some instances, perform the comparison multiple times to prevent false positives due to errant pressure readings, noise, and the like). The measure of the irregularity can be

responsive to the change in the magnitude over a duration of at least 1 second, 10 seconds, 30 seconds, 1 minute, or 5 minutes. The controller 311 can perform a statistical operation, a trending operation, a filtering operation, a cumulative summation operation, or a low-pass filtering operation on the magnitude over time to generate the measure of irregularity. The controller 311 can determine that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound in response to determining that the measure of irregularity satisfies a threshold corresponding to the chaotic condition or does not satisfy a threshold corresponding to the steady state condition. On the other hand, the controller 311 can determine that the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound in response to determining that the measure of irregularity does not satisfy the threshold corresponding to the chaotic condition or satisfies the threshold corresponding to the steady state condition. The one or more thresholds to which the measure of the irregularity is compared, moreover, can vary over time (for example, automatically adjust as the patient heals) or be set responsive to operating conditions for the TNP apparatus 310 (for example, adjust to become more or less sensitive to background noise) or health needs of the patient (for example, adjust depending on a size of a wound, gender of the patient, or age of the patient).

[0070] In yet another example, the controller 311 can compare the magnitude over time to one or more pressure patterns, such as one stored in the memory device 312, to determine whether the wound dressing is coupled to the wound. One pressure pattern, for instance, can be indicative of pressure in the fluid flow path when the wound dressing is coupled to the wound, and another different pressure pattern can be indicative of pressure in the fluid flow path when the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound. The degree of similarity of the magnitude over time relative to the one or more pressure patterns can be used to assign the magnitude over time as reflecting either the wound dressing is or is not coupled to the wound.

[0071] At block 506, the process 500 can output a first indication. For example, in response to determining that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound, the controller 311 can output a first indication indicative of the wound dressing being coupled to the wound. The first indication can denote compliant

usage of the TNP apparatus 310 in some instances. The first indication can be output, for example, by one or more of: outputting the first indication for storage in the memory device 312, transmitting the first indication to the data processing system 320 via the transceiver 317, outputting the first indication for presentation to a user via the user interface 314, or storing the first indication in association with device usage data of the TNP apparatus 310. The outputting of the first indication can additionally control operations of the TNP apparatus 310, such as to enable continued activation of the negative pressure source 313.

[0072] At block 508, the process 500 can output a second indication. For example, in response to determining that the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound, the controller 311 can output a second indication indicative of the wound dressing not being coupled to the wound. The second indication can denote non-compliant usage of the TNP apparatus 310 in some instances. The second indication can be output, for example, by one or more of: outputting the second indication for storage in the memory device 312, transmitting the second indication to the data processing system 320 via the transceiver 317, outputting the second indication for presentation to a user via the user interface 314, or storing the second indication in association with device usage data of the TNP apparatus 310. The outputting of the second indication can additionally control operations of the TNP apparatus 310, such as to cause deactivation of the negative pressure source 313 because the TNP apparatus 310 may be being used in a non-compliant manner.

[0073] The process 500 can examine data from another sensor as described, for instance, with respect to Figure 4 to provide additional information or confidence as to whether the TNP apparatus 310 may be being used in a compliant or non-compliant manner. For example, if another sensor associated with the TNP apparatus 310 detects a signal reflecting a pulse or respiration of a patient, the TNP apparatus 310 may have further confidence and information that the TNP apparatus 310 is being used in a compliant manner rather than a non-compliant manner.

[0074] Figure 6 illustrates an example pressure versus time curve 600 for a TNP system in which a negative pressure source of a TNP apparatus, such the TNP apparatus 310, is in use on a wound of a patient. As can be seen from Figure

6, once the negative pressure source has been activated for a period of time, at time T_1 the magnitude of pressure in the fluid flow path can generally fluctuate around a target pressure level. The magnitude of pressure in the fluid flow path, however, can be substantially chaotic and unpredictable from time T_1 to T_2 for a number of reasons. The patient can be continuously moving due to physical adjustments of the position, breathing, or pulse, thus affecting, for instance, the geometry of the wound, the dressing seal, etc. As a result, the volume of the wound may continuously be undergoing minor changes which can result in changes in the magnitude of pressure. Further, the wound can produce exudate, which upon entering the fluid flow path can cause a gas volume to decrease. Because the gas volume can represent the compressible volume in the system, this compressible volume can act as a damper to pressure spikes created by the negative pressure source and movement of the patient so that the pressures spikes become increasingly large due to reduced damping. In addition, liquid can leave the wound dressing and travel up through the fluid flow path in slugs, and these slugs can affect (for example, increase in magnitude or frequency) the pressure spikes. Overall, this can result is a relatively significant amount of noise in the pressure readings. The magnitude of pressure depicted by Figure 6 may thus be reflective of a chaotic condition from time T_1 to T_2 rather than a steady state condition. In addition or alternatively, other characteristics of pressure, such as frequency, can be monitored for changes. For example, from time T_1 to T_2 , frequency of the pressure signal is smaller in over the time duration 612 than the time duration 614.

[0075] In one implementation, the TNP apparatus 310 can monitor the noise described in the preceding paragraph to determine whether the negative pressure source is connected to a patient. Thus, the TNP apparatus 11 can, for example, flag usage data and logging of events as either (i) patient data or (ii) device misuse. The TNP apparatus 310 can, in some instances, use statistical techniques trending techniques or filtering techniques, such as cumulative sum (Cusum) or low-pass filtering, to determine if the pressure readings may be in steady state (not attached to a wound) or chaotic (attached to a wound).

[0076] Figure 7 illustrates an example pressure versus time curve 700 for a TNP system in which a negative pressure source of a TNP apparatus, such the TNP apparatus 310, is not in use on a wound of a patient. As can be seen from Figure 7, once the negative pressure source has been activated for a period of time, at time T_3 the magnitude of pressure in the fluid flow path can generally fluctuate around a target pressure level. The frequency can generally fluctuate around a particular frequency value. The magnitude of pressure in the fluid flow path, however, can be less chaotic and more predictable (such as from time T_3 to T_4) than when the TNP apparatus is in use on the wound, for at least the reasons described in the preceding two paragraphs as well as other reasons described herein. The magnitude of pressure depicted by Figure 7 may thus be reflective of a steady state condition from time T_3 to T_4 rather than a chaotic condition.

[0077] From comparing pressure characteristic depicted from time T_1 to T_2 in Figure 6 and from time T_3 to T_4 in Figure 7, the following features can be noted. The characteristics of pressure from time T_1 to T_2 in Figure 6 can have one or more of a greater pressure magnitude variation, more pressure frequency variation over time, higher pressure magnitude components (such as, spikes), or greater randomness than the magnitude or frequency of pressure as compared to pressure variations over time T_3 to T_4 in Figure 7.

[0078] In some embodiments, time series analysis algorithms such Auto Regressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA), Generalized Autoregressive Conditional Heteroskedasticity (GARCH), or Cusum (or cumulative sum) can be used to detect use on a wound of a patient. Cusum can be defined as the running sum of the difference between each sample and the mean (e.g., in the absence of change, Cusum is zero). Cusum can be used to track variations in the underlying variable.

[0079] Cusum can be determined in a number of ways. In certain implementations, non-causal Cusum uses the mean calculated from the entire duration of an input signal, which requires knowledge of all samples before the difference from the mean can be calculated. Non-causal Cusum may not be suitable for real-time monitoring and detection and classification unless an estimate

of the mean from prior analysis can be used. Non-causal Cusum can start and end with a value of zero.

[0080] The sliding causal Cusum can be determined using a sliding window to estimate the mean. Initial step change can yield the first departure from zero, rather than resulting in a change of gradient as in the non-causal Cusum. Sliding causal Cusum can produce data within durations of time that are shorter than with non-causal Cusum. Sliding causal Cusum may allow tighter bounds to be used to detect changes and may be less prone to rounding and rollover errors (e.g., numerical errors that may result from use of longer sequences of data).

[0081] The cumulative causal Cusum determination may use all preceding samples from the start of a time duration to the current sample to estimate the mean for the current sample in some embodiments. This version of Cusum can be a compromise between the foregoing two versions, and may be smoother than sliding causal Cusum but not ending at a zero value.

[0082] A TNP apparatus can, for example, be connected to a wound model and one or more sensors can be used to detect one or more of the parameters in Table 1. These parameters can include pressure measurements, level of activity measurements, and the like obtained during operation of the negative pressure wound therapy system. In some embodiments, the level of activity can include one or more parameters of an actuator (e.g., motor) of the negative pressure source (e.g., pump), such as current (or voltage) of a motor drive signal, PWM signal, and motor speed. The apparatus can be operated under the conditions of changing one of vacuum level provided by the negative pressure source, rate of water removed from the wound, rate of exudate removed from the wound, rate of blood removed from the wound, or gas (e.g., air) leak rate in the fluid flow path while maintaining the other parameters constant. This way, operational parameters can be determined, statistics can be computed and analyzed (e.g., by using Cusum analysis), and the most appropriate statistic(s) for detecting use on a wound of a patient can be selected. In addition, in some embodiments, statistical properties of one or more of the statistics in Table 1 are calculated. These statistical

properties can include one or more of mean, standard deviation, skewness (third statistical moment), kurtosis (fourth statistical moment), minimum, and maximum.

Input Signal	Statistic
Vacuum Pressure	Raw
Vacuum Pressure	Mean
Vacuum Pressure	Standard Deviation
Vacuum Pressure	Peak to Peak
Current	Raw
Current	Mean
Current	Standard Deviation
Current	Peak to Peak
PWM	Raw
PWM	Mean
PWM	Standard Deviation
PWM	Peak to Peak
Impulse (Motor Speed)	Raw
Impulse (Motor Speed)	Mean
Impulse (Motor Speed)	Standard Deviation
Impulse (Motor Speed)	Peak to Peak
Tick Rate (Motor Speed)	Raw

Table 1: Input signals and statistics

[0083] Using correlation and fitness analysis is described, for instance, in International Patent Application No. PCT/US2017/017538 titled “SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR DETECTING OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS OF REDUCED PRESSURE THERAPY,” filed on February 10, 2017, the entirety of which is incorporated by reference, the following statistics can be selected for detection and classification of one or more operational conditions of a TNP apparatus:

Operational Condition	Statistic
Vacuum level	Mean of the raw vacuum (e.g., 802)
Gas leak rate	Standard deviation of the rolling mean of motor current (e.g., 804)
Water/Exudate rate	Kurtosis of the rolling standard deviation of pump speed (e.g., 806)
Blood rate	Standard deviation of the rolling standard deviation of the motor current (e.g., 808)

Table 2: Statistics used for detection and classification

[0084] For example, in the graphs illustrated in Figures 8-10, a TNP apparatus was operated initially in steady-state and thereafter one of the operational parameters or variables was changed. In Figure 8, the intensity of gas (e.g., air) leak in the fluid flow path has been changed (e.g., from 60 sccm to 180 sccm at around 5 seconds) and collected and analyzed data is used to perform detection of an abrupt increase in the leak rate. In Figure 9, flow rate of fluid (e.g., exudate) has been changed (e.g., bolus of fluid introduced into the fluid flow path at around 5 seconds) and collected and analyzed data is used to perform detection of change in the fluid flow rate. In Figure 10, vacuum level produced by the negative pressure source has been changed (e.g., from -80 mmHg to -120 mmHg at around 18 seconds) and collected and analyzed data is used to perform detection of change in vacuum pressure in the fluid flow path.

[0085] Figure 8 illustrates detection 800 of a gas leak when exudate is being aspirated from a wound according to some embodiments. Four plots 800a, 800b, 800c, and 800d are illustrated corresponding to, respectively, raw (or unprocessed) values of the statistics in Table 2 and non-causal Cusum, sliding causal Cusum, and cumulative causal Cusum of the statistics in Table 2. In plots 800a-d, curves 802 represent raw and Cusum values of mean of raw vacuum, curves 804 represent raw and Cusum values of standard deviation of the rolling mean of motor current, curves 806 represent raw and Cusum values of kurtosis of rolling standard deviation of pump speed, and curves 808 represent standard deviation of rolling standard deviation of motor current. X-axes in the plots 800a-d corresponds to time duration (e.g., 60 seconds). Y-axis in plot 800a represents logarithmic scale (to normalized different raw values of the statistics), and y-axes in plots 800b-d are linearly scaled (or normalized) so that Cusum values are in the range (-1.0, 1.0). Plots 800a-d capture data corresponding to a change (e.g., increase) in the gas leak rate (e.g., from 60 sccm to 180 sccm at around 5 seconds).

[0086] Figure 9 illustrates detection 900 of a change in fluid rate when exudate is being aspirated from a wound according to some embodiments. Four plots 900a-d are illustrated corresponding to, respectively, raw (or unprocessed) values of the statistics in Table 2 (labeled 802, 804, 806, and 808) and non-causal

Cusum, sliding causal Cusum, and cumulative causal Cusum of the statistics. Plots 800a-d capture data corresponding to a change (e.g., increase) in exudate flow rate due to bolus of exudate being released into the fluid flow path (e.g., at around 5 seconds).

[0087] Figure 10 illustrates detection 1000 of a change in vacuum level when exudate is being aspirated from a wound according to some embodiments. Four plots 1000a-d are illustrated corresponding to, respectively, raw (or unprocessed) values of the statistics in Table 2 (labeled 802, 804, 806, and 808) and non-causal Cusum, sliding causal Cusum, and cumulative causal Cusum of the statistics. Plots 1000a-d capture data corresponding to a change (e.g., increase) in vacuum level provided by the pump (e.g., from -80 mmHg to -120 mmHg at around 18 seconds).

[0088] In certain implementations, as described in International Patent Application No. PCT/US2017/017538, similar plots can be obtained when another type of fluid, such as water or blood, is introduced into the fluid flow path.

[0089] Detection of one or more operational conditions described herein can moreover be used for detection of use on a wound of a patient. For example, with reference to Figure 8, various Cusums (non-causal, sliding causal, and cumulative causal) for the standard deviation of the rolling mean of motor current (804) are responsive to the increase in the gas leak around 5 seconds. Non-causal Cusum illustrated in 800b sharply increases between about 5 and 8 seconds, flattens out between about 9 and 30 seconds, and then gradually decreases after about 30 seconds. Sliding causal Cusum illustrated in 800c stays relatively flat between about 5 and 7 seconds, sharply decreases at 9 seconds, and then stays relatively flat. Cumulative causal Cusum illustrated in 800c stays relatively flat between about 5 and 8 seconds and linearly or monotonically decreases thereafter. Any of such patterns, including sharp, gradual, or linear changes (increases or decreases), can be compared to one or more thresholds to detect changes in the gas leak rate. Detection of such changes in the gas leak rate can be indicative of use on a wound of a patient.

[0090] As another example, with reference to Figure 9, various Cusums (non-causal, sliding causal, and cumulative causal) for the kurtosis of the rolling standard deviation of pump speed (806) are responsive to the increase in the exudate flow rate at around 5 seconds. As illustrated in plots 900b-d, curve 806 is substantially periodic after about 6 seconds and reaches several distinctive peaks around 20, 25, and 35 seconds. Such patterns indicating change in the exudate flow rate can be detected, by, for example, comparison to one or more thresholds, and can be used to provide indication of use on a wound of a patient.

[0091] As yet another example, with reference to Figure 10, various Cusums (non-causal, sliding causal, and cumulative causal) for the mean vacuum (802) are responsive to the increase in the vacuum level at around 18 seconds. Non-causal Cusum illustrated in 1000b linearly or monotonically increases after about 18 seconds. Cumulative causal Cusum illustrated in 1000c stays linearly or monotonically increases after about 18 seconds. Any of such patterns, including linear changes (increases or decreases), can be compared to one or more thresholds to detect changes in the vacuum level. Detection of such changes in the gas leak rate can be indicative of use on a wound of a patient.

[0092] Presence of blood or change in flow rate of blood can detected based on, for example, the standard deviation of the rolling standard deviation of the motor current (808) as described in International Patent Application No. PCT/US2017/017538. Detection of any one or more of changes in the gas leak rate, vacuum level, exudate flow rate, or blood flow rate can be used to provide indication of use on a wound of a patient.

Other Variations

[0093] In some embodiments, an apparatus for detecting compliant and non-compliant use of a negative pressure wound therapy device is disclosed. The apparatus can include a memory device and a processor. The memory device can store pressure data indicative of a magnitude of pressure over time in a fluid flow path connecting a negative pressure source and a wound dressing. The processor can be in communication with the memory device. The processor can: determine

from a change in the magnitude over time whether the wound dressing was coupled to a wound when the negative pressure source provided negative pressure to the wound dressing, output a first indication in response determining that the wound dressing was coupled to the wound when the negative pressure source provided negative pressure to the wound dressing, and output a second indication different from the first indication in response determining that the wound dressing was not coupled to the wound when the negative pressure source provided negative pressure to the wound dressing.

[0094] The apparatus of the preceding paragraph can include one or more of the following features: The apparatus can further include a receiver configured to receive the pressure data via a communication network. The communication network can be a wireless communication network. The processor can compare a measure of irregularity of the change in the magnitude over time to a threshold to determine whether the wound dressing was coupled to the wound. The processor can: perform a statistical operation, a trending operation, a filtering operation, a cumulative summation operation, or a low-pass filtering operation on the magnitude over time to generate an output value; and determine that the wound dressing was coupled to the wound in response to determining that the output value is more indicative of a chaotic condition than a steady state condition. The processor can compare the magnitude over time to a pressure pattern to determine whether the wound dressing was coupled to the wound. The processor can output the second indication by outputting the second indication for presentation to a user on a graphic user interface. The processor can output the second indication by generating and transmitting an alert for presentation to a user on a graphic user interface. The processor can store, in the memory device, device usage data in association with the first indication to denote that the device usage data is associated with a compliant use of the negative pressure source. The processor can store, in the memory device, device usage data in association with the second indication to denote that the device usage data is associated with a non-compliant use of the negative pressure source.

[0095] A method of operating or manufacturing the apparatus of any of the preceding two paragraphs is disclosed.

[0096] Any value of a threshold, limit, duration, etc. provided herein is not intended to be absolute and, thereby, can be approximate. In addition, any threshold, limit, duration, etc. provided herein can be fixed or varied either automatically or by a user. Furthermore, as is used herein relative terminology such as exceeds, greater than, less than, etc. in relation to a reference value is intended to also encompass being equal to the reference value. For example, exceeding a reference value that is positive can encompass being equal to or greater than the reference value. In addition, as is used herein relative terminology such as exceeds, greater than, less than, etc. in relation to a reference value is intended to also encompass an inverse of the disclosed relationship, such as below, less than, greater than, etc. in relations to the reference value. Moreover, although blocks of the various processes may be described in terms of determining whether a value meets or does not meet a particular threshold, the blocks can be similarly understood, for example, in terms of a value (i) being below or above a threshold or (ii) satisfying or not satisfying a threshold.

[0097] Features, materials, characteristics, or groups described in conjunction with a particular aspect, embodiment, or example are to be understood to be applicable to any other aspect, embodiment or example described herein unless incompatible therewith. All of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), and/or all of the steps of any method or process so disclosed, may be combined in any combination, except combinations where at least some of such features and/or steps are mutually exclusive. The protection is not restricted to the details of any foregoing embodiments. The protection extends to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), or to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the steps of any method or process so disclosed.

[0098] While certain embodiments have been described, these embodiments have been presented by way of example only, and are not intended to

limit the scope of protection. Indeed, the novel methods and systems described herein may be embodied in a variety of other forms. Furthermore, various omissions, substitutions and changes in the form of the methods and systems described herein may be made. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that in some embodiments, the actual steps taken in the processes illustrated and/or disclosed may differ from those shown in the figures. Depending on the embodiment, certain of the steps described above may be removed, others may be added. For example, the actual steps and/or order of steps taken in the disclosed processes may differ from those shown in the figure. Depending on the embodiment, certain of the steps described above may be removed, others may be added. For instance, the various components illustrated in the figures may be implemented as software and/or firmware on a processor, controller, ASIC, FPGA, and/or dedicated hardware. Hardware components, such as processors, ASICs, FPGAs, and the like, can include logic circuitry. Furthermore, the features and attributes of the specific embodiments disclosed above may be combined in different ways to form additional embodiments, all of which fall within the scope of the present disclosure.

[0099] User interface screens illustrated and described herein can include additional and/or alternative components. These components can include menus, lists, buttons, text boxes, labels, radio buttons, scroll bars, sliders, checkboxes, combo boxes, status bars, dialog boxes, windows, and the like. User interface screens can include additional and/or alternative information. Components can be arranged, grouped, displayed in any suitable order.

[0100] Although the present disclosure includes certain embodiments, examples and applications, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that the present disclosure extends beyond the specifically disclosed embodiments to other alternative embodiments and/or uses and obvious modifications and equivalents thereof, including embodiments which do not provide all of the features and advantages set forth herein. Accordingly, the scope of the present disclosure is not intended to be limited by the specific disclosures of preferred embodiments herein, and may be defined by claims as presented herein or as presented in the future.

[0101] Conditional language, such as “can,” “could,” “might,” or “may,” unless specifically stated otherwise, or otherwise understood within the context as used, is generally intended to convey that certain embodiments include, while other embodiments do not include, certain features, elements, or steps. Thus, such conditional language is not generally intended to imply that features, elements, or steps are in any way required for one or more embodiments or that one or more embodiments necessarily include logic for deciding, with or without user input or prompting, whether these features, elements, and/or steps are included or are to be performed in any particular embodiment. The terms “comprising,” “including,” “having,” and the like are synonymous and are used inclusively, in an open-ended fashion, and do not exclude additional elements, features, acts, operations, and so forth. Also, the term “or” is used in its inclusive sense (and not in its exclusive sense) so that when used, for example, to connect a list of elements, the term “or” means one, some, or all of the elements in the list. Further, the term “each,” as used herein, in addition to having its ordinary meaning, can mean any subset of a set of elements to which the term “each” is applied.

[0102] Conjunctive language such as the phrase “at least one of X, Y, and Z,” unless specifically stated otherwise, is otherwise understood with the context as used in general to convey that an item, term, etc. may be either X, Y, or Z. Thus, such conjunctive language is not generally intended to imply that certain embodiments require the presence of at least one of X, at least one of Y, and at least one of Z.

[0103] Language of degree used herein, such as the terms “approximately,” “about,” “generally,” and “substantially” as used herein represent a value, amount, or characteristic close to the stated value, amount, or characteristic that still performs a desired function or achieves a desired result. For example, the terms “approximately,” “about,” “generally,” and “substantially” may refer to an amount that is within less than 10% of, within less than 5% of, within less than 1% of, within less than 0.1% of, and within less than 0.01% of the stated amount. As another example, in certain embodiments, the terms “generally parallel” and “substantially parallel” refer to a value, amount, or characteristic that departs from

exactly parallel by less than or equal to 15 degrees, 10 degrees, 5 degrees, 3 degrees, 1 degree, or 0.1 degree.

[0104] The scope of the present disclosure is not intended to be limited by the specific disclosures of preferred embodiments in this section or elsewhere in this specification, and may be defined by claims as presented in this section or elsewhere in this specification or as presented in the future. The language of the claims is to be interpreted broadly based on the language employed in the claims and not limited to the examples described in the present specification or during the prosecution of the application, which examples are to be construed as non-exclusive.

[0105] In the claims which follow and in the preceding description of the invention, except where the context requires otherwise due to express language or necessary implication, the word “comprise” or variations such as “comprises” or “comprising” is used in an inclusive sense, i.e. to specify the presence of the stated features but not to preclude the presence or addition of further features in various embodiments of the invention.

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. An apparatus for applying negative pressure to a wound, the apparatus comprising:

a negative pressure source configured to couple via a fluid flow path to a wound dressing and provide negative pressure to the wound dressing;

a sensor configured to monitor pressure in the fluid flow path; and

a controller configured to:

determine that the wound dressing is coupled to a wound from a change in a magnitude of pressure in the fluid flow path over a first time duration being indicative of a chaotic condition while the negative pressure source maintains negative pressure in the fluid flow path within a target pressure range,

output a first indication denoting that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound,

determine that the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound from the change in the magnitude of pressure in the fluid flow path over a second time duration being indicative of a steady state condition while the negative pressure source maintains negative pressure in the fluid flow path within the target pressure range, and

output a second indication different from the first indication denoting that the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller is further configured to: in response to the determination that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound, store, in a memory device, device usage data indicating a compliant use of the negative pressure source.

3. The apparatus of claim or claim 2, wherein the controller is further configured to: in response to the determination that the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound, store, in a memory device, device usage data indicating a misuse use of the negative pressure source.

4. The apparatus of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the controller is further configured to compare a measure of irregularity of the change in the magnitude over the first and/or second time duration to a threshold to determine whether the change in the magnitude over the time duration is indicative of the chaotic or steady state condition.

5. The apparatus of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the controller is further configured to:

perform a statistical operation, a trending operation, a filtering operation, a cumulative summation operation, or a low-pass filtering operation on the magnitude over the first and/or the second time duration to generate an output value; and

determine that the change in the magnitude over the second time duration is indicative of the steady state condition in response to a determination that the output value is indicative of the steady state condition.

6. The apparatus of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the controller is configured to determine that the change in the magnitude over the second time duration is indicative of the steady state condition from a time domain representation of the magnitude over the time duration and a frequency domain representation of the magnitude over the time duration.

7. The apparatus of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the controller is further configured to compare the magnitude over the first and/or the second time duration to a pressure pattern to determine whether the change in the magnitude over the time duration is indicative of the chaotic or the steady state condition.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the pressure pattern is indicative of pressure in the fluid flow path when the wound dressing is coupled and/or not

coupled to the wound while the negative pressure source maintains negative pressure in the fluid flow path within the target pressure range.

9. The apparatus of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first indication denotes a compliant use of the negative pressure source, and the second indication denotes a non-compliant use of the negative pressure source.

10. The apparatus of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the controller is further configured to:

output the first indication for storage in a memory device and/or presentation to a user, or

output the second indication for storage in the memory device and/or presentation to the user.

11. The apparatus of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the controller is further configured to:

output the first indication by causing a transmitter to transmit the first indication to a computing device via a communication network, or

output the second indication by causing the transmitter to transmit the second indication to the computing device via the communication network.

12. The apparatus of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the fluid flow path comprises at least one lumen.

13. The apparatus of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the fluid flow path comprises a plurality of lumens.

14. The apparatus of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the controller is configured to activate and deactivate the negative pressure source responsive to the first indication or the second indication.

15. The apparatus of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the negative pressure source is configured to perform negative pressure therapy when

the magnitude over the first time duration is maintained within the target pressure range.

16. A method of operating a negative pressure wound therapy apparatus, the method comprising:

providing negative pressure to a wound dressing via a fluid flow path using a negative pressure source;

monitoring with a sensor pressure in the fluid flow path;

determining that the wound dressing is coupled to a wound from a change in a magnitude of pressure in the fluid flow path over a first time duration being indicative of a chaotic condition while maintaining negative pressure in the fluid flow path within a target pressure range;

in response to determining that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound, outputting a first indication denoting that the wound dressing is coupled to the wound; and

determining that the wound dressing is not coupled to a wound from a change in a magnitude of pressure in the fluid flow path over a second time duration being indicative of a steady state condition while maintaining negative pressure in the fluid flow path within the target pressure range;

in response to determining that the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound, outputting a second indication different from the first indication denoting that the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising storing, in a memory device, device usage data associated with:

(i) a compliant use of the negative pressure wound therapy apparatus in response to determining the wound dressing is coupled to the wound; and
or

(ii) a misuse use of the negative pressure wound therapy apparatus in response to determining the wound dressing is not coupled to the wound.

18. The method of claim 17, or the apparatus of any one of claims a to 1 to 15, wherein the device usage data comprises one or more of a pressure level, an alarm, an exudate level, an event log, or a therapy duration.

19. The method of any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein said determining that the wound dressing is coupled or not coupled to a wound comprises comparing a measure of irregularity of the change in the magnitude over the first and/or the second time duration, respectively, to a threshold.

20. The method of claim 19 or the apparatus of claim 4, wherein the measure of irregularity is responsive to the change in the magnitude over a time duration of at least 1 second, 10 seconds, 30 seconds, 1 minute, or 5 minutes.

21. The method of any one of claims 16 to 20, further comprising performing a statistical operation, a trending operation, a filtering operation, a cumulative summation operation, or a low-pass filtering operation on the magnitude over time to generate an output value,

wherein said determining that the wound dressing is not coupled to a wound comprises determining that the output value is indicative of the steady state condition.

22. The method of any one of claims 16 to 21, further comprising comparing the magnitude over the first and/or second time duration to a pressure pattern to determine whether the change in the magnitude over the time duration is indicative of the chaotic or steady state condition.

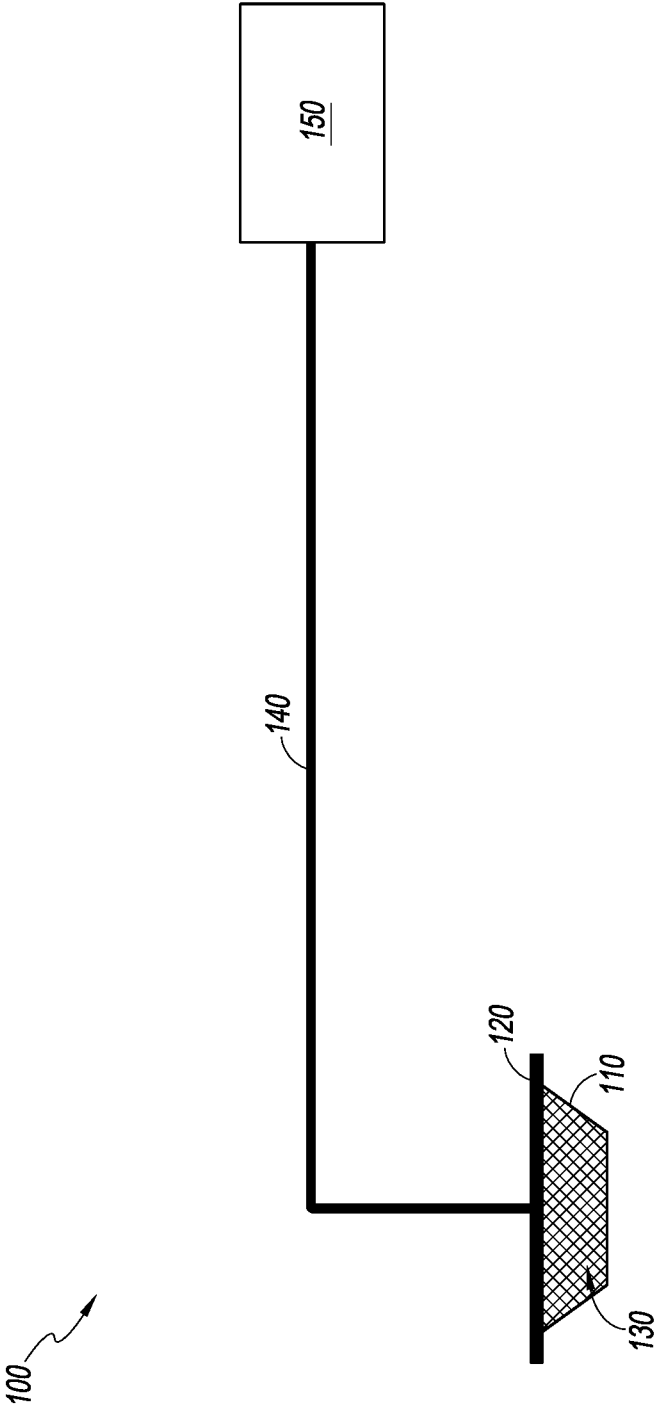
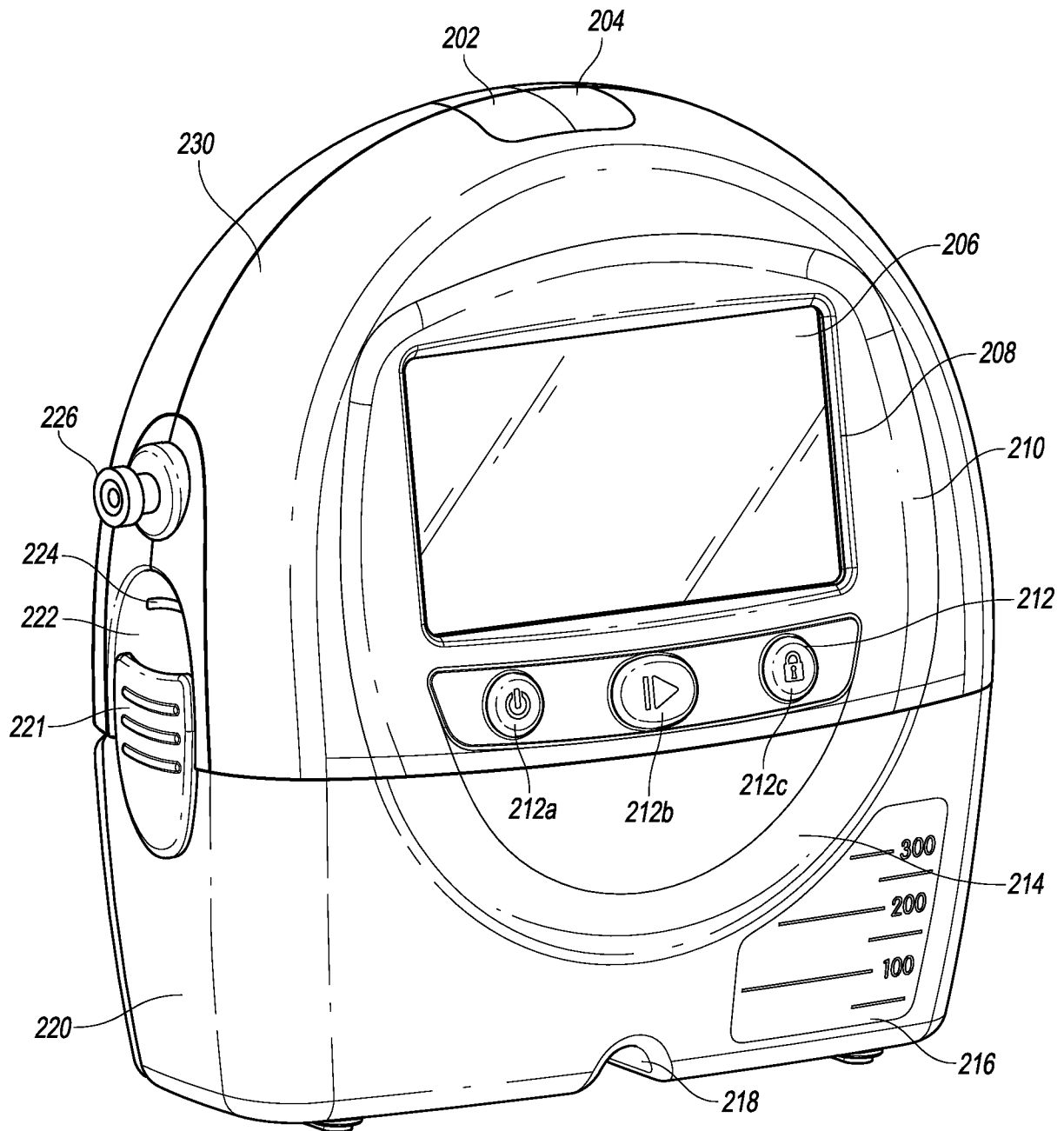
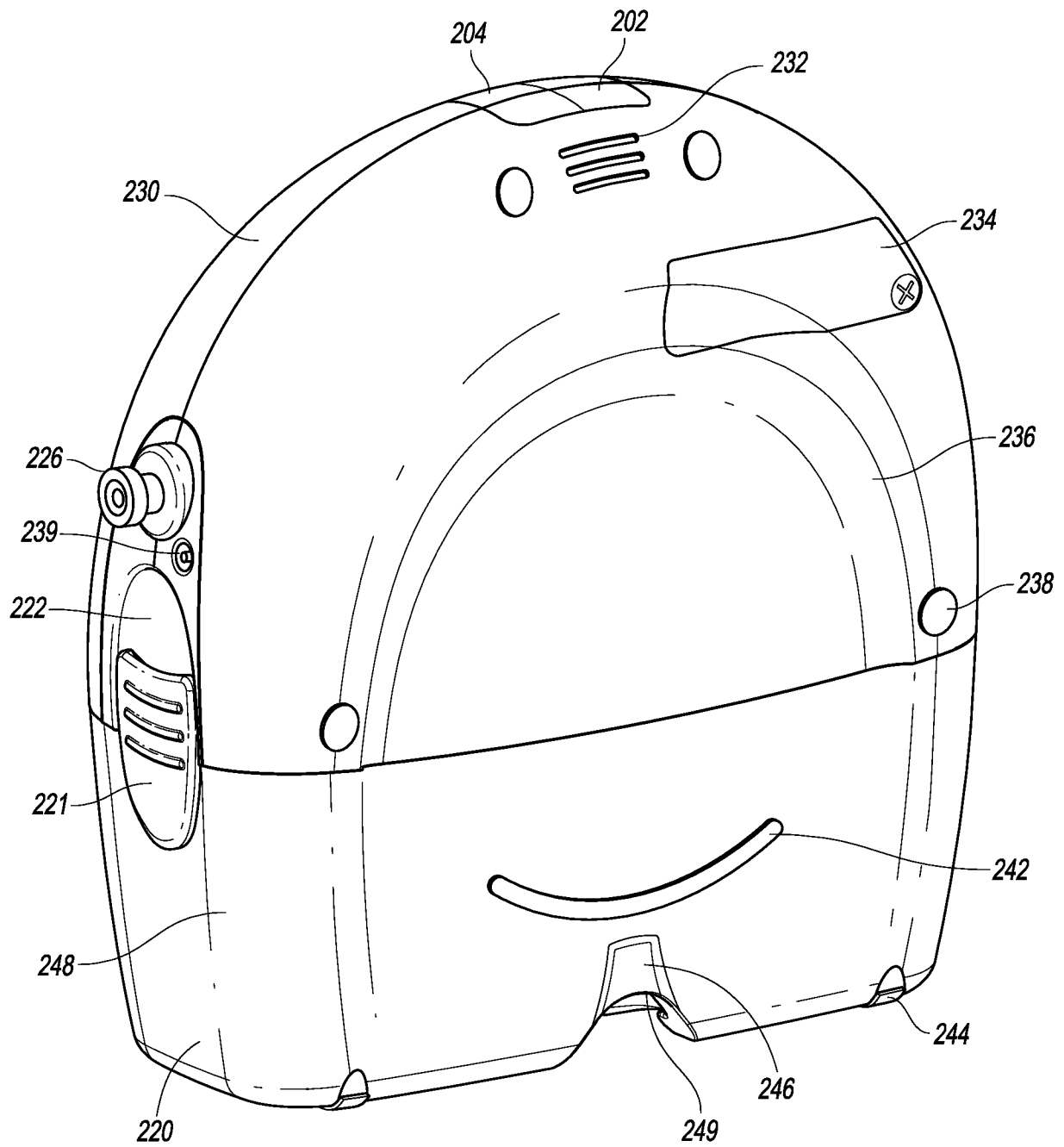
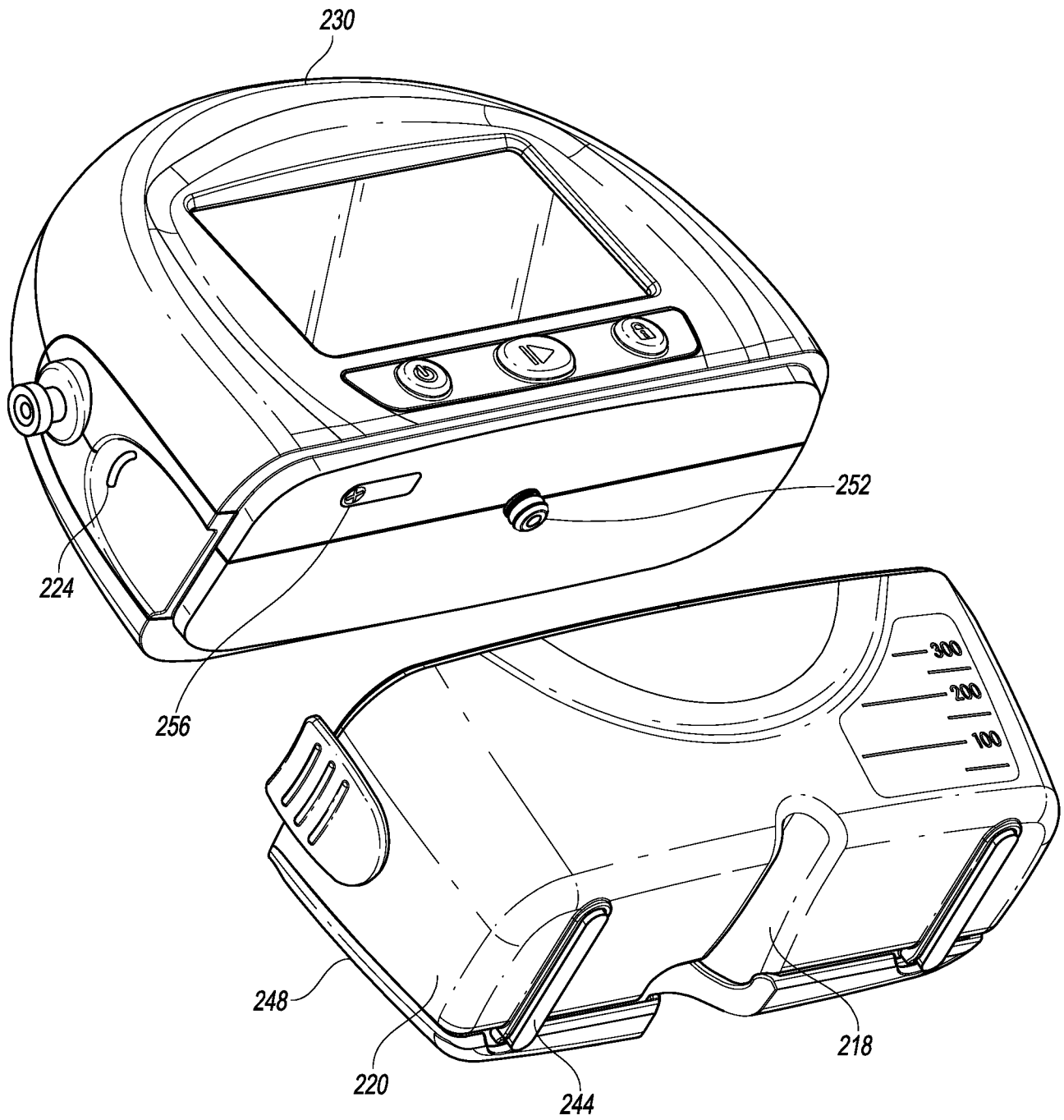


FIG. 1

**FIG. 2A**

**FIG. 2B**

*FIG. 2C*

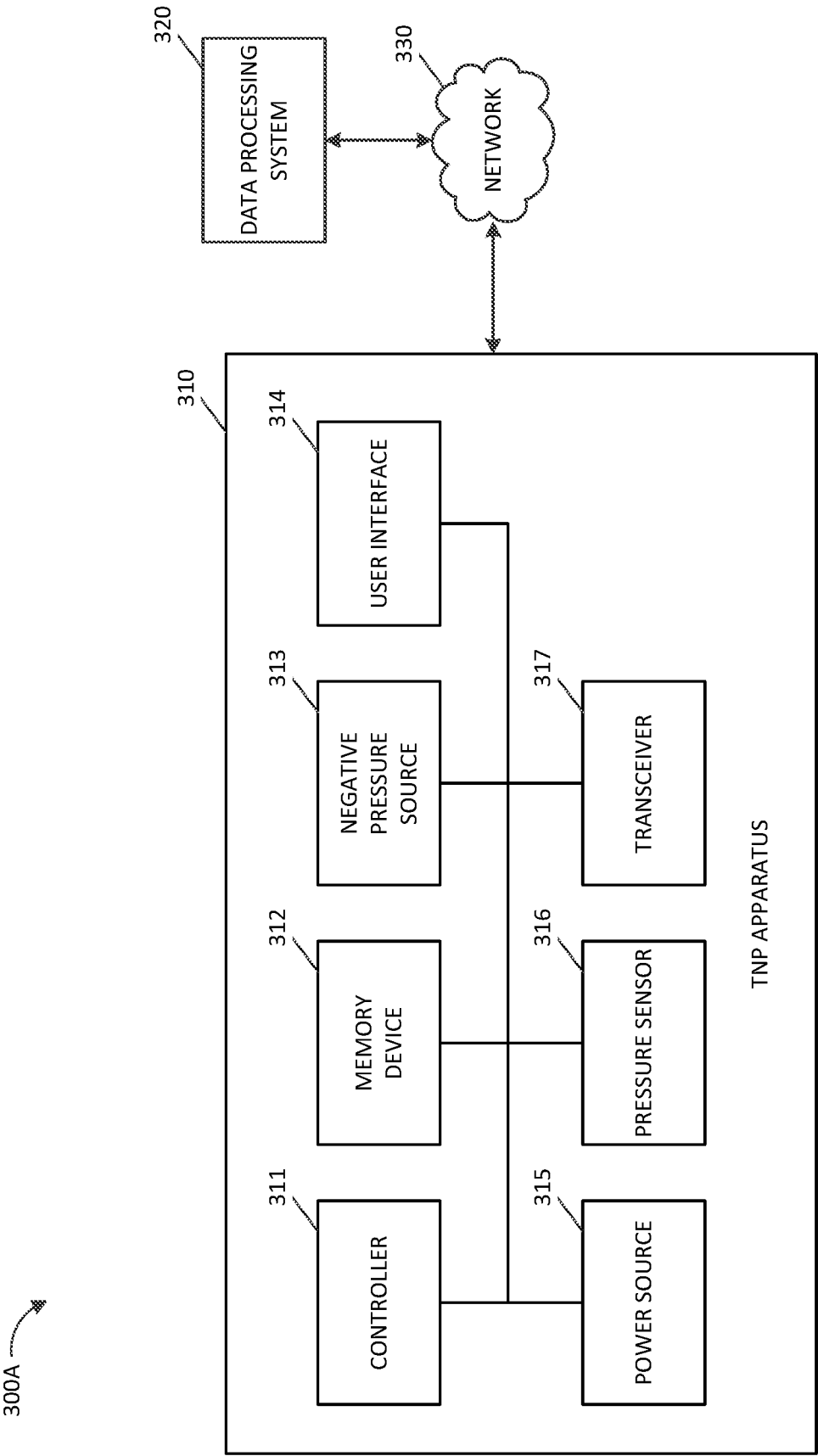


FIG. 3A

300B

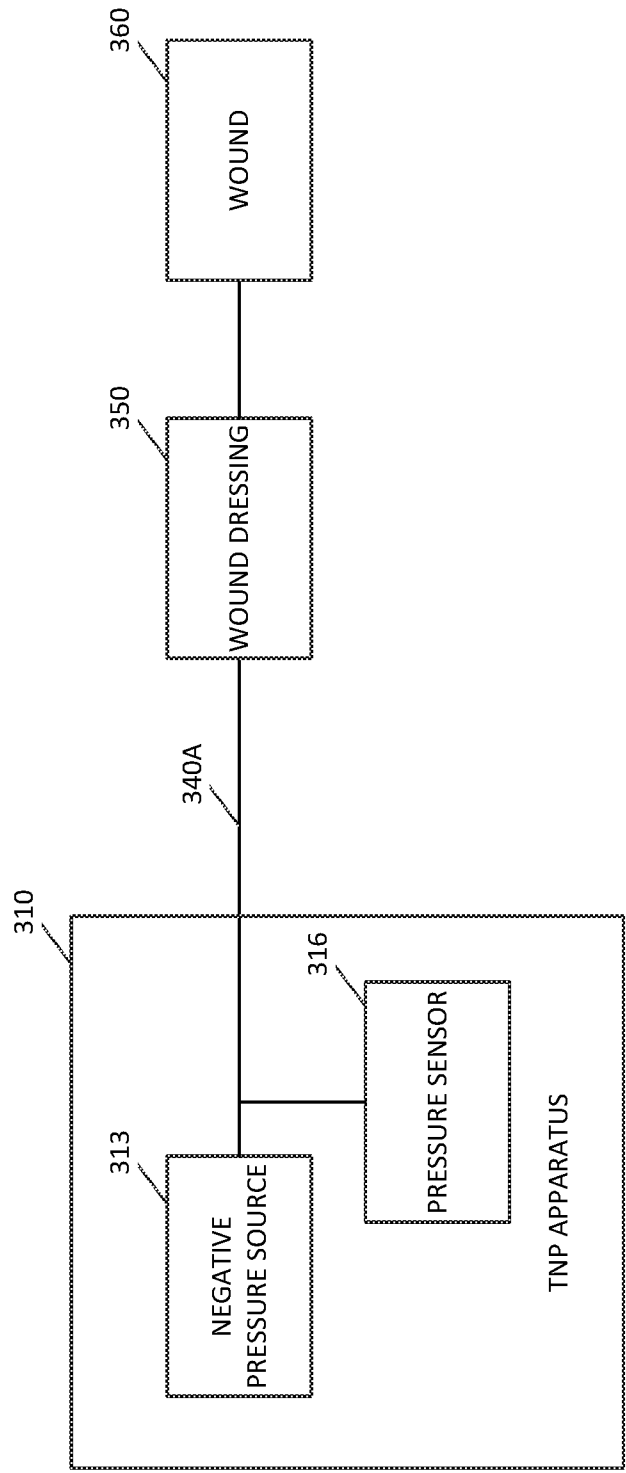


FIG. 3B

300C

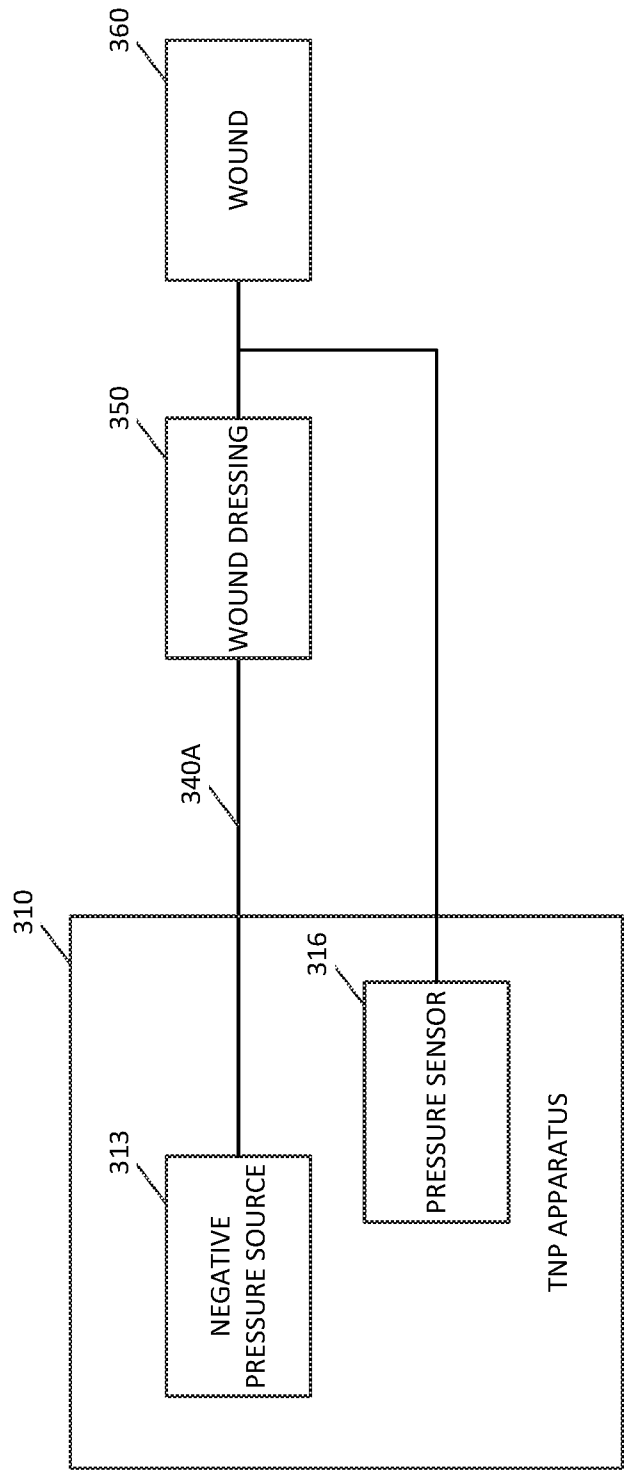


FIG. 3C

300D

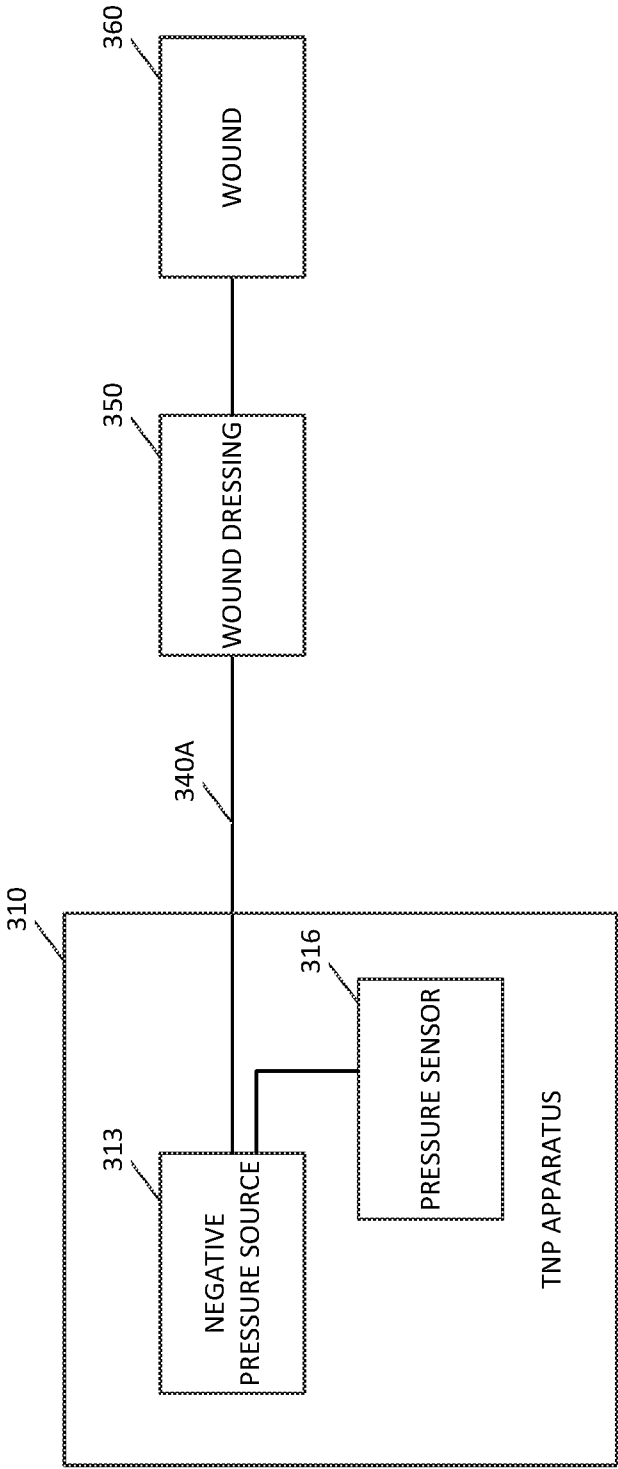


FIG. 3D

300E →

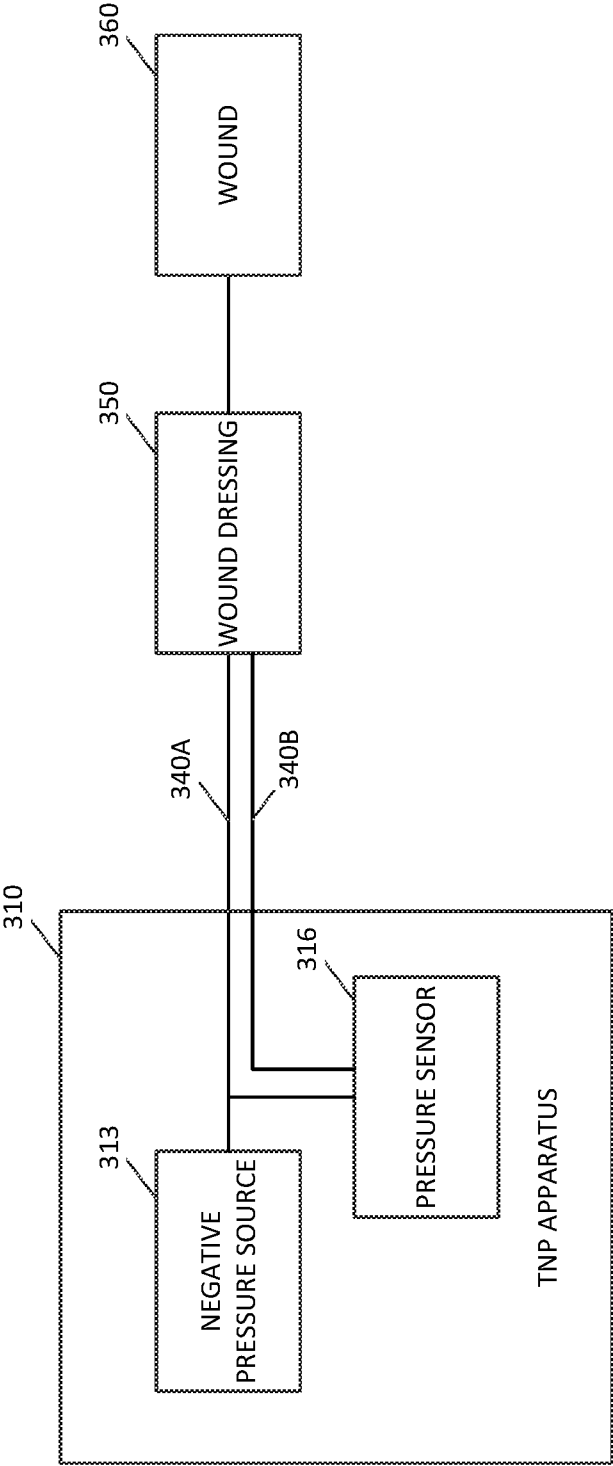


FIG. 3E

300F

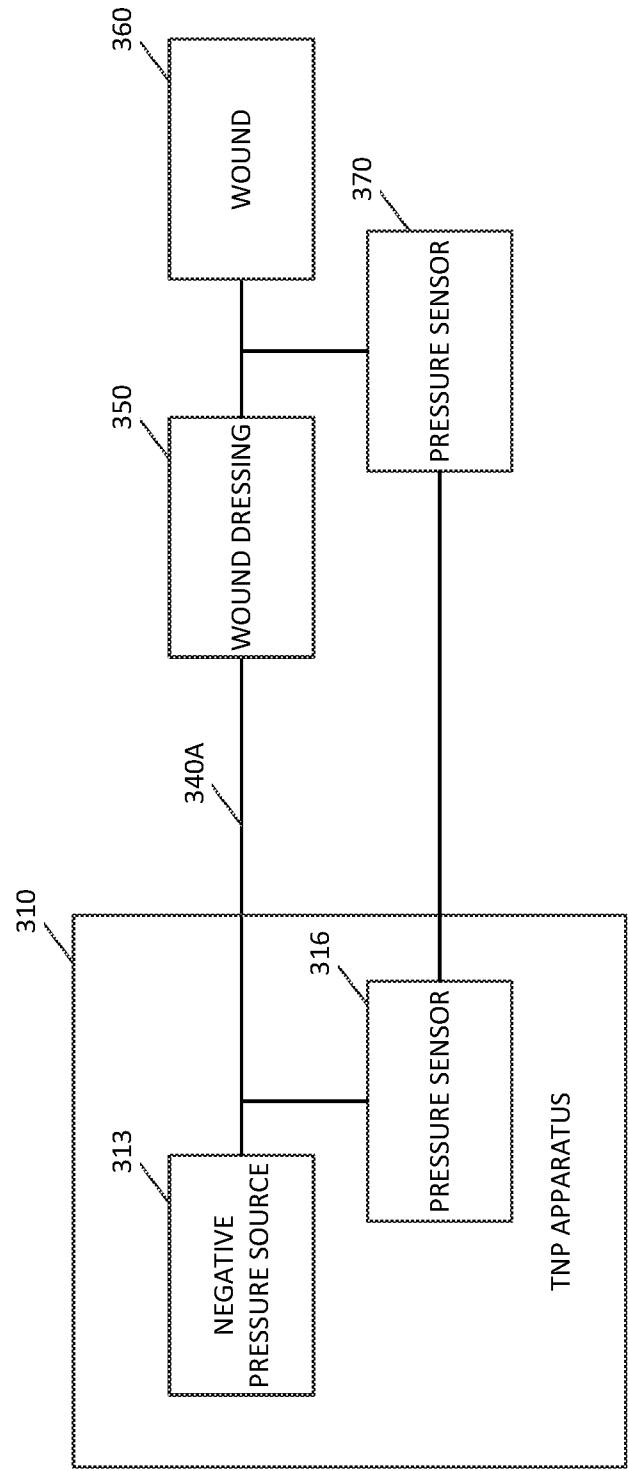


FIG. 3F

300G

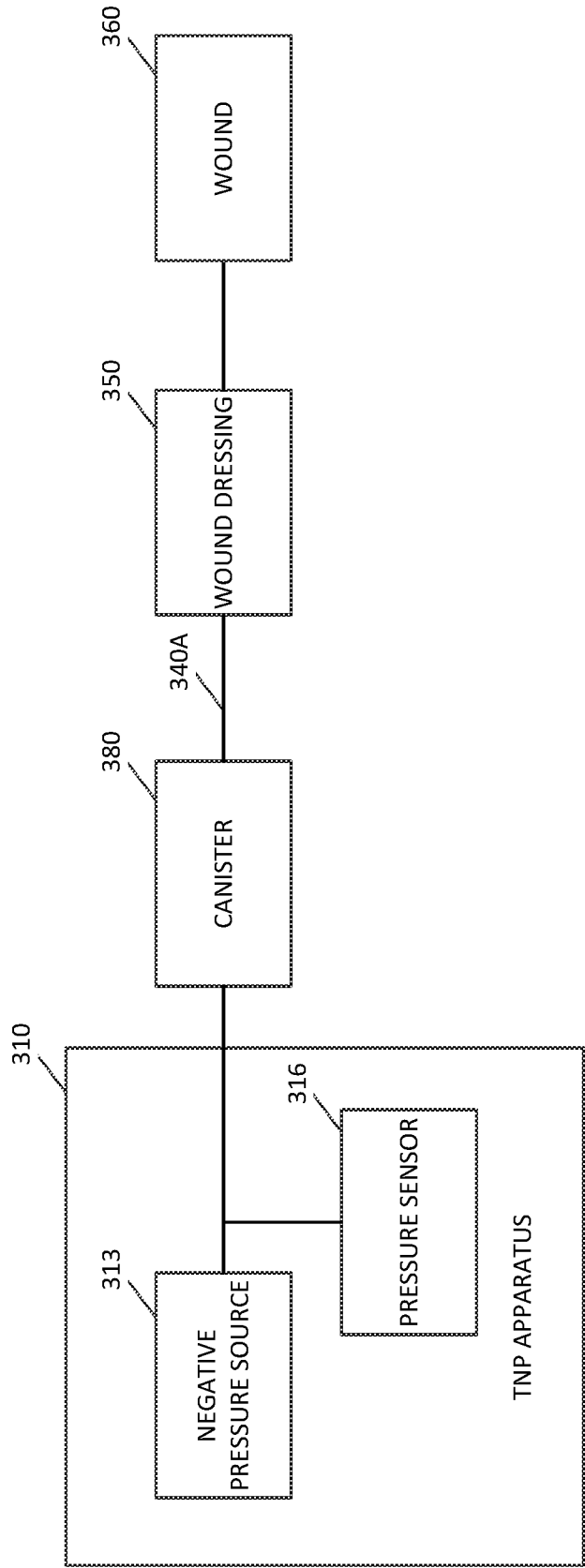


FIG. 3G

400

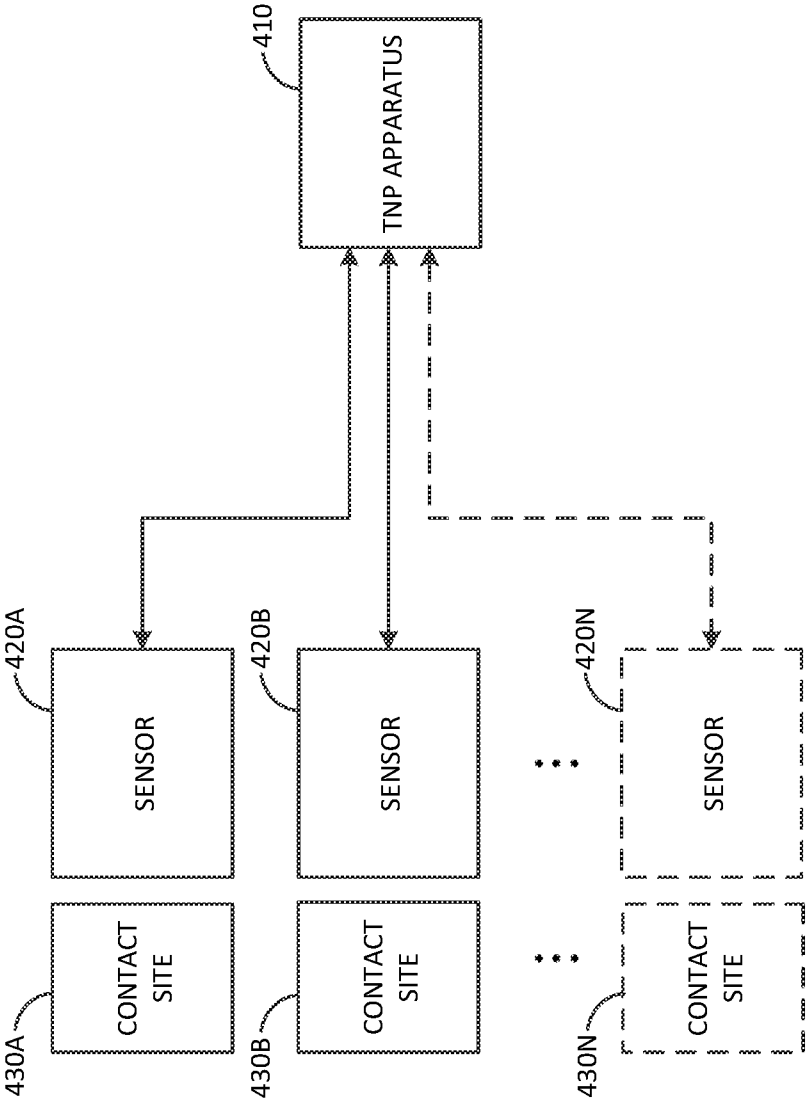
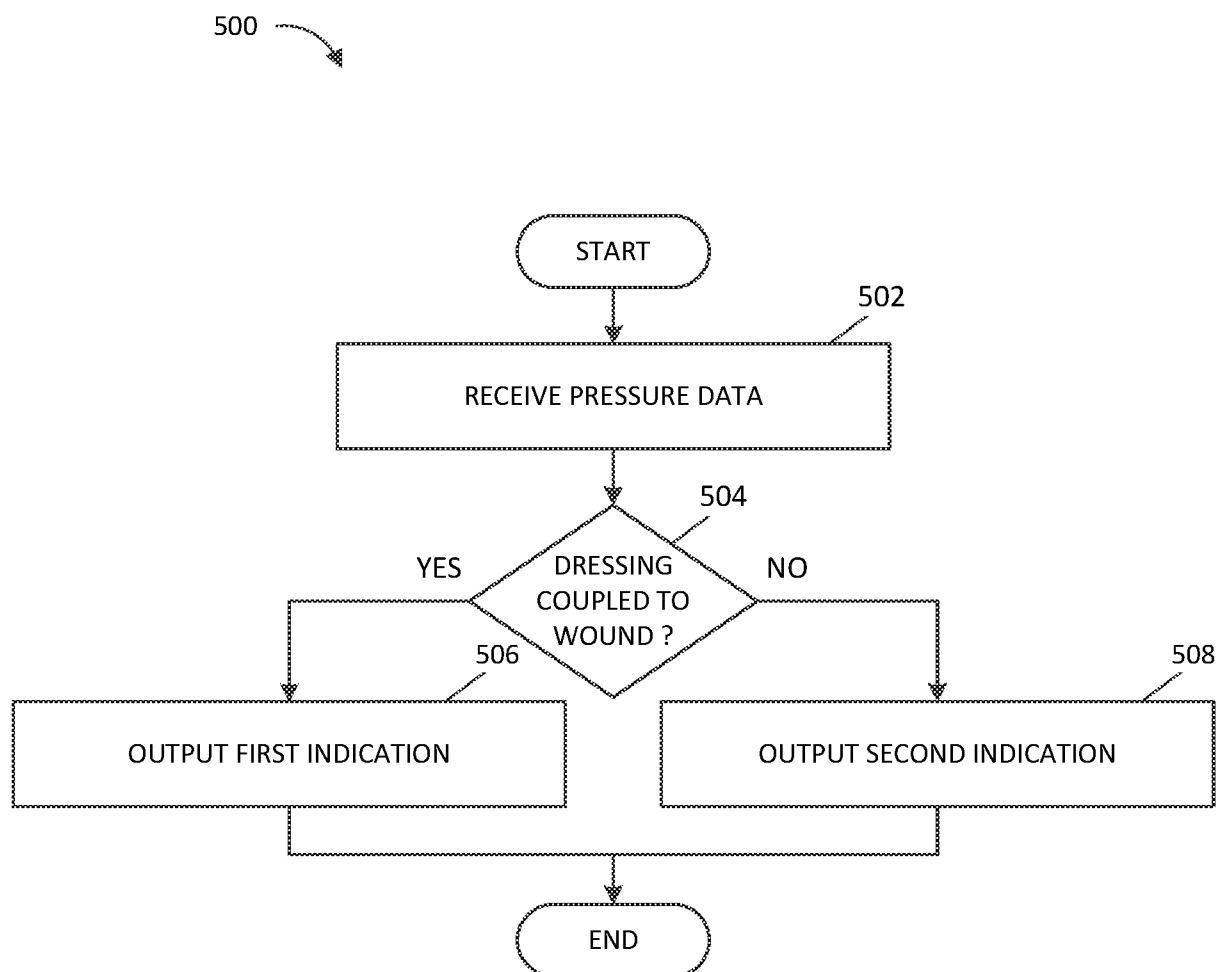


FIG. 4

WOUND COUPLING DETECTION PROCESS**FIG. 5**

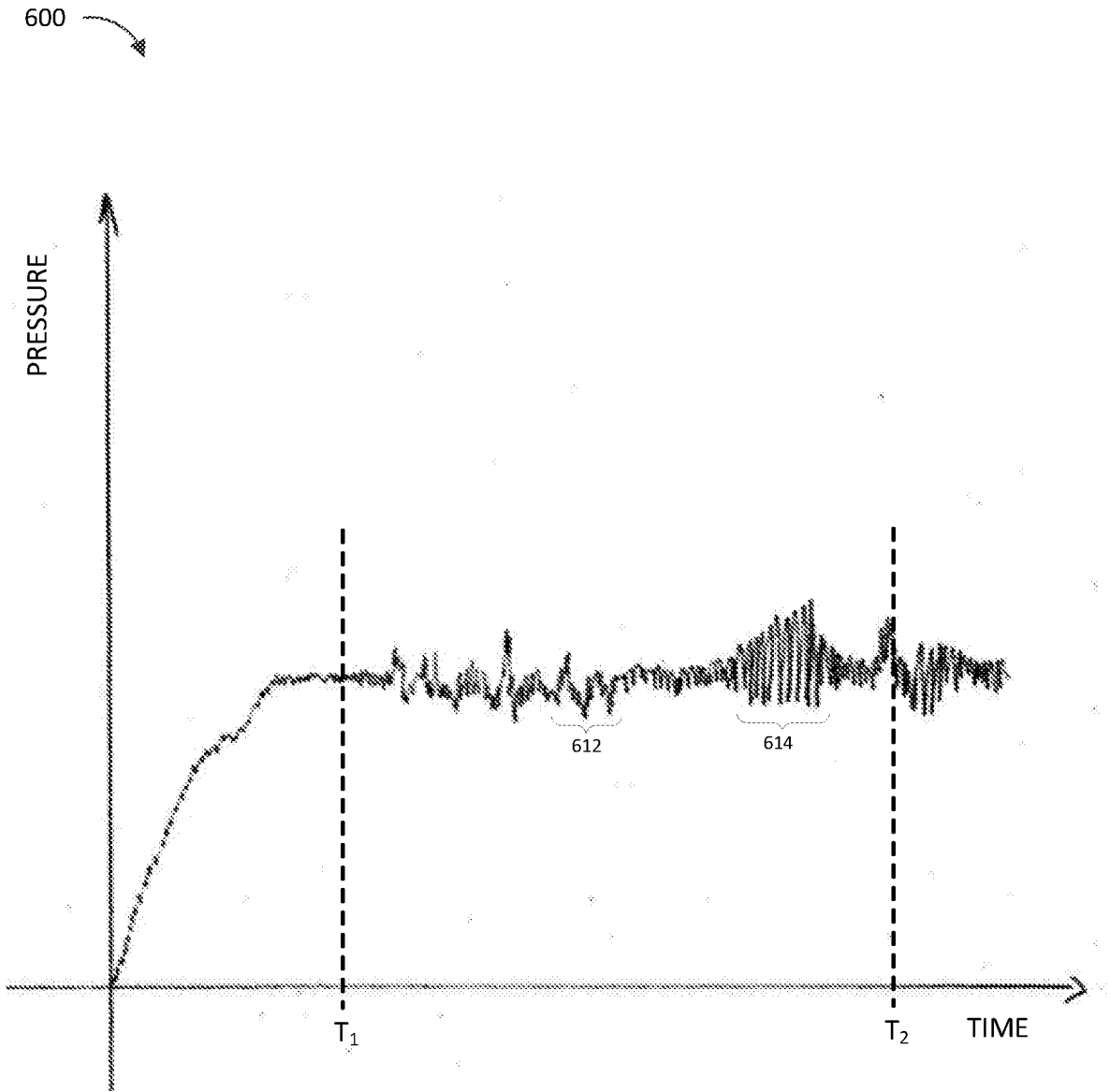


FIG. 6

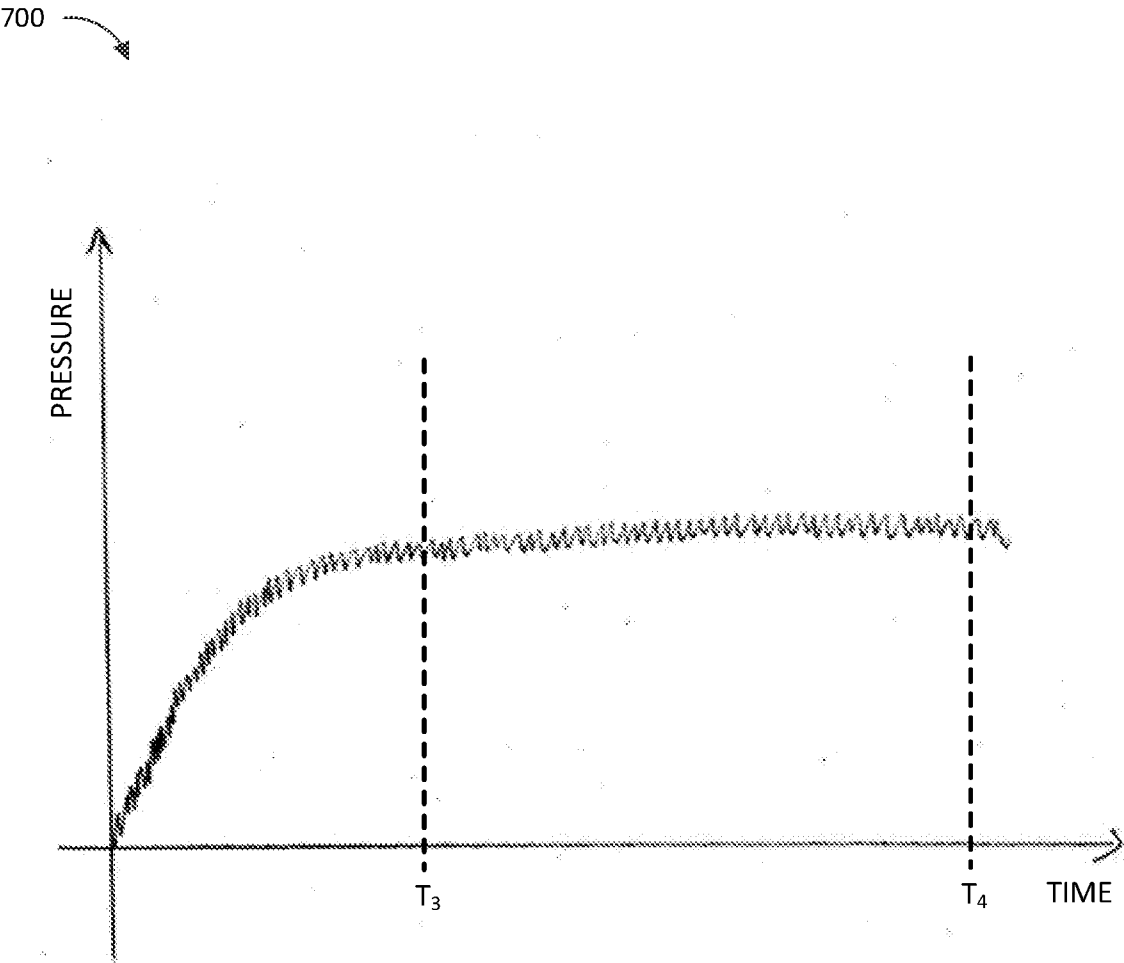


FIG. 7

