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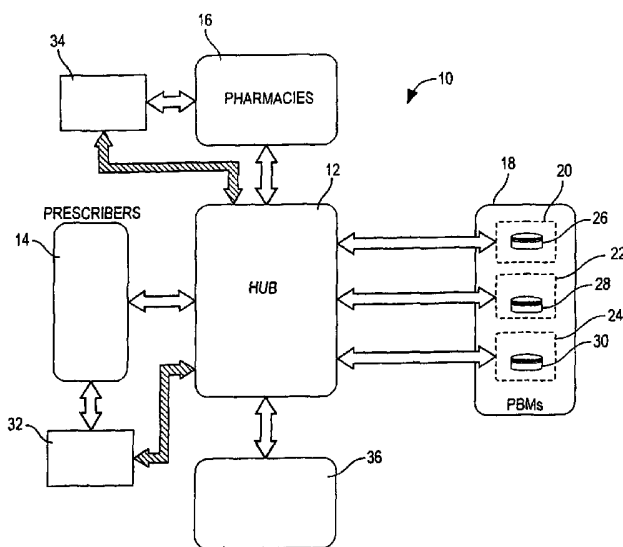
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PRESCRIPTION DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: An exchange hub (12) having electronic connections to subscribers (14) including prescribers, pharmacies (16) and pharmacy benefit management services (PBM's) (18) for the purpose of exchanging relevant pharmaceutical data is disclosed. The exchange hub allows each of its subscribers to send communications that may include request and response transactions, an end point to end point message, or an upload of a data file. The communications may be opaque to the exchange hub or the contents may be modified for additional value. The communications may include a request for eligibility of benefits for a particular patients which will return an aggregation of all PBM's for which that patient is eligible. Additional patient information such as formularies or medication history may be requested. The exchange hub also may route prescription information between the prescribers and pharmacies. The information may include new prescriptions, request for renewals, request for change of a prescription, cancellation and the fill status of a prescription.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER																				
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED																				
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched																				
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) Please See Continuation Sheet																				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT																				
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.																		
Y	US 6,195,612 B1 (PACK-HARRIS) 27 February 2001 (27.02.2001), Abstract, column 2, line 25-56, column 3, line 10 to column 4, line 26, column 5, lines 24-34, column 6, lines 1-47, column 12, lines 1-27.	1-42																		
Y	US 6,074,345 A (VAN OOSTROM et al.) 13 June 2000 (13.06.2000), Abstract, column 1, line 12 to column 3, line 17, column 3, line 38 to column 4, line 2, column 5, lines 15-24, column 13, lines 8-35.	1-42																		
Y	US 6,012,035 A (FREEMAN, JR. et al.) 4 January 2000 (04.01.2000), column 2, line 51 to column 3, line 57, column 4, line 45 to column 5, line 13, column 8, line 44 to column 9, line 23.	1-42																		
Y	US 5,704,044 A (TARTER et al.) 30 December 1997 (30.12.1997), column 4, lines 15-67, column 6, lines 21-31, column 28, lines 1-46, column 30, lines 12-54, column 31, lines 35-55.	5-7,11,17, 27																		
A	US 6,385,589 B1 (TRUSHEIM et al.) 07 May 2002 (07.05.2002), column 3, lines 18-28, column 4, lines 3-19, column 5, lines 20-52, column 8, lines 1-67, column 14, lines 53-59.	1-42																		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.																				
<table border="0"> <tr> <td colspan="2">* Special categories of cited documents:</td> <td>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"X"</td> <td>document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"Y"</td> <td>document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</td> <td>"&"</td> <td>document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			* Special categories of cited documents:		"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family	"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means			"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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**Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:
EAST SEARCH**

Search terms:

prescription exchange transmit transfer swap communicate subscribe database "data base" prescription pharmaceutical
pharmacy pharmacies medication drug benefits