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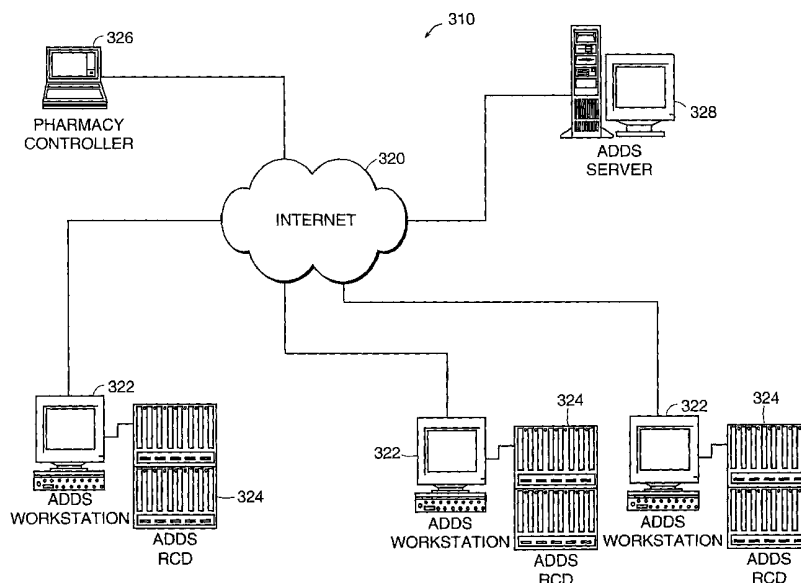
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR DRUG DISPENSING



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to systems and methods for the remote dispensing of packaged and non-packaged medical products using networked communications systems. A preferred embodiment of the invention utilizes a network to provide for the secure delivery of confidential patient information and the sending of dispense instructions to a remote dispensing station. A preferred embodiment of the present invention relates to systems and methods of dispensing samples of drugs or other medical products. Another preferred embodiment of the invention provides a system and method for dispensing non-prescription medications.



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LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ,
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 00/26170

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F19/00 A61J7/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G06F A61J

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, COMPENDEX, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 797 515 A (LIFF HAROLD J ET AL) 25 August 1998 (1998-08-25) abstract column 1, line 1 -column 22, line 62 ---	1-42,45, 46
Y	US 5 713 485 A (LIFF HAROLD J ET AL) 3 February 1998 (1998-02-03) abstract column 1, line 1 -column 14, line 34 ---	1-42,45, 46
X A	WO 98 28676 A (PYXIS CORP) 2 July 1998 (1998-07-02) abstract page 1, line 1 -page 6, line 18 --- -/--	1,16,29, 37,45 2-15, 17-28, 30-36, 38-42,46

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

5 February 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

03. 07. 2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	WO 99 10829 A (LARKINS WILLIAM T ;KAMEN DEAN L (US); MANNING ROBERT (US); NISBET) 4 March 1999 (1999-03-04) abstract page 1, line 1 -page 15, line 21 ---	1,16,29, 37,45 2-15, 17-28, 30-36, 38-42,46
X A	NL 9 400 941 A (MEDIMAAT BV ;CONS HEALTH ENTREPRENEURS BV (NL)) 2 January 1996 (1996-01-02) the whole document ---	1,16,29, 37,45 2-15, 17-28, 30-36, 38-42,46
A	US 5 564 803 A (MCDONALD ROBERT H ET AL) 15 October 1996 (1996-10-15) the whole document ---	1-42,45, 46
A	US 5 924 074 A (EVANS JAE A) 13 July 1999 (1999-07-13) abstract column 1, line 1 -column 3, line 42 ---	1-42,45, 46
A	US 4 857 713 A (BROWN JACK D) 15 August 1989 (1989-08-15) the whole document -----	1-42,45, 46

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 00/26170

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

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

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

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

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

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

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-42, 45, 46

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-42,45,46

Computer-controlled system for remote dispensing of a medical product, comprising an authorisation node, a dispensing node, a controlling node and a transmission medium between the nodes.

2. Claims: 43,44

Data transmission medium between a plurality of computers, with a special data structure.

3. Claims: 47-61

Drug sample dispenser with a housing, a computer mounted inside, a control system to open and close the dispenser and possibly a multiplicity of bins to contain the medicines.

4. Claims: 62-87

Method to obtain prescribed drug samples from a sample dispenser that is provided with a plurality of drug samples, by means of a user ID that is checked against a database interfaced with the drug sample dispenser. The medicines can be collected directly by a user from the dispenser, or they can be put in a mobile collector that goes to a delivery area where the user picks them up. An authorisation is needed for the drug to be delivered.

5. Claims: 88-102

Method to obtain uncontrolled drugs (without the need for a prescription) from a drug dispenser, by means of a user ID that is checked against a database interfaced with the drug sample dispenser. The medicines can be collected directly by a user from the dispenser, or conveyed to a delivery area. Authorisation is not needed for the drug to be delivered.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 00/26170

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