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Waste Detection System

Abstract

A waste detection system includes a pad configured to acquire a fluid sample excreted from a patient. The pad can include one or more layers and at least one microfluidic channel configured to receive the fluid sample. The waste detection system can further include an intake manifold in fluid communication with the at least one microfluidic channel. The intake manifold can be configured to receive the fluid sample and can include one or more reagents configured to detect the presence of waste within the fluid sample excreted from the patient.

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Background/Summary

PRIORITY [0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/556,883, filed Dec. 20, 2021, now U.S. Pat. No. 12,285,257, which claims the benefit of priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/128,644, filed Dec. 21, 2020, and to U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/213,106, filed Jun. 21, 2021, each of which is incorporated by reference in its entirety into this application.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Medical patients can lose their ability to control their bowel movements. Involuntary bowel movements for patients confined to a medical bed can lead to an increase in pressure ulcers, a breakdown of skin integrity and infection. To detect whether a bowel movement has occurred, caretakers of these patients most question the patient or visually detect whether a bowel movement has occurred. If a bowel movement has occurred, the caretaker must clean up the patient, dispose of any contaminated clothing or bedding, and dress the patient again. If the patient is wearing a diaper, the caretaker may have to remove the diaper for visual determination of a bowel movement occurrence. It would be beneficial to the patient and more efficient for the caretaker to be able to detect if a bowel movement has occurred without questioning the patient or visually inspecting the patient.

SUMMARY

[0003] Disclosed herein is a waste detection system. The waste detection system includes a pad configured to acquire a fluid sample excreted from a patient. The pad includes one or more layers and at least one microfluidic channel configured to receive therein the fluid sample. The waste detection system further includes an intake manifold in fluid communication with the at least one microfluidic channel, the intake manifold configured to receive the fluid sample, the intake manifold having one or more reagents configured to detect the presence of waste within the fluid sample excreted from the patient.

[0004] In some embodiments, the one or more layers includes a portion of the one or more layers having absorbent properties.

[0005] In some embodiments, the one or more layers includes a portion of the one or more layers having wicking properties.

[0006] In some embodiments, the one or more microfluidic channels are located within the portion having absorbent properties.

[0007] In some embodiments, the one or more microfluidic channels are located within the portion having wicking properties.

[0008] In some embodiments, the pad is placed under a lower abdominal region of a patient.

[0009] In some embodiments, the waste includes urine, stool, blood or *Clostridioides difficile*.

[0010] In some embodiments, the one or more microfluidic channels are coupled to the intake manifold at a proximal side or a distal side.

[0011] In some embodiments, the intake manifold includes one or more chambers configured to include the one or more reagents therein.

[0012] In some embodiments, the one or more chambers are configured in the shape of a cylinder, a rectangular prism, or an inverse cone.

[0013] In some embodiments, the intake manifold is detachably coupled to the pad.

[0014] In some embodiments, the pad is disposable.

[0015] In some embodiments, the intake manifold is disposable or reusable.

[0016] In some embodiments, the one or more reagents are in a solution form, a liquid form or a powder form.

[0017] In some embodiments, the intake manifold includes one or more hooks or one or more magnets configured to suspend the intake manifold from a medical bed.

[0018] Also disclosed herein is a method of detecting waste excreted from a patient. The method includes acquiring a fluid sample excreted from a patient on a pad, transferring the fluid sample from the pad to an intake manifold in fluid communication with the pad, detecting the presence of waste within the fluid sample, and indicating a bowel movement has occurred.

[0019] In some embodiments, acquiring the fluid sample excreted from the patient on the pad includes the pad being placed under a lower abdominal region of the patient.

[0020] In some embodiments, the waste includes urine, stool, blood, or *Clostridioides difficile*.

[0021] In some embodiments, acquiring includes wicking away the fluid sample from a patient using a wicking portion of the pad and absorbing the fluid sample into pad using an absorbing portion of the pad.

[0022] In some embodiments, transferring the fluid sample from the pad to the intake manifold includes using capillary action, gravity flow or negative pressure flow to transfer the fluid sample from the pad to the intake manifold.

[0023] In some embodiments, detecting includes using the one or more reagents in a chemical reaction or biochemical assay to detect the presence of waste.

[0024] In some embodiments, indicating a bowel movement has occurred includes the one or more reagents emitting a visible color or undergoing a visible color change within the intake manifold to indicate a bowel movement has occurred.

[0025] Also disclosed herein is a waste detection system. The waste detection system includes a pad configured to receive a fluid sample excreted from a patient, the pad being placed under a lower abdominal region of the patient, the pad having a proximal side, a distal side, one or more layers and at least one microfluidic channel configured to receive therein the fluid sample. The waste detection system further includes an intake manifold in fluid communication with the at least one microfluidic channel and configured to receive the fluid sample, the intake manifold including one or more reagents configured to detect the presence of waste within the fluid sample excreted from the patient. The waste detection system includes an analyzer configured to receive therein a portion of the intake manifold, the analyzer having a console in communication with a camera configured to detect one or more visible colors or visible color changes of the reagents within the intake manifold.

[0026] In some embodiments, the one or more reagents are configured to detect the presence of waste within the fluid sample by detecting one or more analytes within the fluid sample.

[0027] In some embodiments, detecting one or more analytes within the fluid sample includes the one or more reagents emitting a visible color or undergoing a visible color change.

[0028] In some embodiments, detecting one or more analytes within the fluid sample includes detecting one or more analytes when the one or more analytes are above a threshold.

[0029] In some embodiments, the one or more detected analytes include a panel of disease state specific analytes or treatment plan specific analytes.

[0030] In some embodiments, the one or more detected analytes include urine, stool, glucose, protein, or bacteria.

[0031] In some embodiments, the bacteria includes *Clostridium difficile*.

[0032] In some embodiments, the intake manifold includes one or more chambers configured to receive a portion of the fluid sample therein.

[0033] In some embodiments, each chamber includes the one or more reagents therein configured

to detect different analytes within the fluid sample.

[0034] In some embodiments, each chamber includes the one or more reagents therein configured to detect the same analytes within the fluid sample.

[0035] In some embodiments, the one or more reagents are configured to emit a color or undergo a visible color change in proportion to the concentration of the detected analyte in the fluid sample.

[0036] In some embodiments, the intake manifold includes a removable wafer, the removable wafer having one or more wafer compartments in fluid communication with the one or more chambers, the wafer compartments configured to receive therein a portion of the fluid sample, the removable wafer including a wafer cover configured to seal therein the fluid sample.

[0037] In some embodiments, the analyzer is configured to receive the removable wafer therein.

[0038] In some embodiments, the console having one or more processors, an energy source, non-transitory computer readable medium, and a plurality of logic modules.

[0039] In some embodiments, the console is in communication with a docking station, a computing device, or an electronic medical record system.

[0040] In some embodiments, the plurality of logic modules, when executed by the processor are configured to perform operations including activating the analyzer including the camera, calibrating the analyzer including the camera, capturing one or more images of the intake manifold or the removable wafer, detecting one or more colors or color changes from the one or more images of the intake manifold or the removable wafer, correlating the one or more detected colors or color changes with a result value and time of day value, analyzing the result value, and transmitting the result value, the time of day value and the captured image to a computing device or an electronic medical record system.

[0041] In some embodiments, the analyzer is configured to detachably couple to the docking station.

[0042] In some embodiments, calibrating the analyzer includes calibrating the analyzer with a reference color pad.

[0043] In some embodiments, capturing one or more images of the intake manifold or the removable wafer includes the camera capturing the one or more images when the intake manifold or the removable wafer is coupled to the analyzer.

[0044] In some embodiments, the pad includes pad channels in fluid communication with the one or more microfluidic channels, the pad channels defined by absorbent material between wicking fiber.

[0045] In some embodiments, a portion of the wicking fiber or the entire wicking fiber is covered with a hydrophilic coating configured to create a hydrophilic gradient.

[0046] In some embodiments, each of the pad, the intake manifold and the removable wafer are disposable or reusable.

[0047] Also disclosed herein is a method of receiving and analyzing a fluid sample excreted from a patient for waste. The method includes configuring a waste detection system for collection of a fluid sample. The waste detection system includes a pad with one or more layers and one or more microfluidic channels configured to receive therein the fluid sample, the one or more microfluidic channels in fluid communication with an intake manifold having one or more reagents configured to detect one or more analytes within the fluid sample. The intake manifold further includes one or more chambers and a removable wafer configured to receive therein a portion of the fluid sample. The waste detection system further includes an analyzer having a console, the analyzer configured to receive therein a portion of the intake manifold and detect one or more visible colors or visible color changes of the reagents. The method further includes receiving the fluid sample excreted from the patient, transferring the fluid sample from the pad to the intake manifold, detecting the one or more analytes in the fluid sample within the intake manifold, and analyzing the detected one or more analytes and transmitting the results to a computing device or electronic medical record system.

[0048] In some embodiments, configuring the waste detection system for collection of a fluid sample includes placing the pad under a lower abdominal region of a patient and placing the intake manifold in fluid communication with the pad.

[0049] In some embodiments, receiving a fluid sample excreted from the patient includes the pad acquiring the fluid sample.

[0050] In some embodiments, receiving a fluid sample includes absorbing the fluid sample into the pad.

[0051] In some embodiments, transferring the fluid sample from the pad to the intake manifold includes the pad using the pad channels to transfer the fluid sample to the one or more microfluidic channels in fluid communication with the intake manifold.

[0052] In some embodiments, transferring the fluid sample from the pad to the intake manifold includes transferring the fluid sample from the pad to the intake manifold by gravity flow or capillary action.

[0053] In some embodiments, detecting one or more analytes in the fluid sample includes using the one or more reagents to detect one or more analytes.

[0054] In some embodiments, the one or more analytes include urine, stool, bacteria, glucose, or proteins.

[0055] In some embodiments, the one or more reagents emit a visible color or undergo a visible color change when detecting the one or more analytes in the fluid sample.

[0056] In some embodiments, the one or more reagents emit a visible color or undergo a visible color change when detecting the one or more analytes over a threshold.

[0057] In some embodiments, the one or more reagents emit a visible color or undergo a visible color change in proportion to the concentration of the one or more analytes within the fluid sample.

[0058] In some embodiments, analyzing the detected one or more analytes includes the analyzer detecting the visible color or visible color changes.

[0059] In some embodiments, the analyzer detects the visible color or visible color changes within the intake manifold or removable wafer.

[0060] In some embodiments, the analyzer includes a camera configured to capture one or more images of the intake manifold or removable wafer.

[0061] In some embodiments, analyzing the detected one or more analytes includes the console correlating the detected visible color or detected visible color change with a result value and time of day value.

[0062] In some embodiments, the result value is above or below a threshold.

[0063] In some embodiments, transmitting the results to the computing device includes the analyzer transmitting the results when the analyzer is coupled to a docking station in communication with the computing device.

[0064] These and other features of the concepts provided herein will become more apparent to those of skill in the art in view of the accompanying drawings and following description, which describe particular embodiments of such concepts in greater detail.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0065] A more particular description of the present disclosure will be rendered by reference to specific embodiments thereof that are illustrated in the appended drawings. It is appreciated that these drawings depict only typical embodiments of the invention and are therefore not to be considered limiting of its scope. Example embodiments of the invention will be described and explained with additional specificity and detail through the use of the accompanying drawings in which:

[0066] FIG. 1 illustrates a perspective view of a pad of a waste detection system, in accordance with some embodiments.

[0067] FIG. 2 illustrates a perspective view of the waste detection system, in accordance with some embodiments.

[0068] FIG. 3A illustrates an exploded perspective view of the pad, in accordance with some embodiments.

[0069] FIG. 3B illustrates a cross sectional view of the microfluidic channel within the microfluidic cavity of the pad, in accordance with some embodiments.

[0070] FIGS. 4A-4B illustrates plan views of different embodiments of the pad, in accordance with some embodiments.

[0071] FIG. 5A illustrates a perspective view of the intake manifold, in accordance with some embodiments.

[0072] FIG. 5B illustrates a cross sectional view of the intake manifold including the one or more chambers, in accordance with some embodiments.

[0073] FIG. 5C illustrates a plan view of a method of detecting waste excreted from the patient, in accordance with some embodiments.

[0074] FIG. 6 illustrates a flow chart of an exemplary method of detecting the presence of waste in a fluid sample excreted from a patient using the waste detection system, in accordance with some embodiments.

[0075] FIG. 7A illustrates a perspective view of the waste detection system in a hospital setting, in accordance with some embodiments.

[0076] FIG. 7B illustrates a perspective view of some components of the waste detection system including an intake manifold and an analyzer, in accordance with some embodiments

[0077] FIG. 8A illustrates a perspective view of the intake manifold including a removable wafer, in accordance with some embodiments.

[0078] FIGS. 8B-8C illustrates a perspective view of some components of the removable wafer including a wafer cover, in accordance with some embodiments.

[0079] FIGS. 9A-9B illustrate cross sectional views of the pad, in accordance with some embodiments.

[0080] FIG. 10 illustrates a block diagram of some components of the analyzer including a console, in accordance with some embodiments.

[0081] FIG. 11 illustrates a flow chart of an exemplary method of receiving and analyzing a fluid sample excreted from a patient, in accordance with some embodiments

DESCRIPTION

[0082] Before some particular embodiments are disclosed in greater detail, it should be understood that the particular embodiments disclosed herein do not limit the scope of the concepts provided herein. It should also be understood that a particular embodiment disclosed herein can have features that can be readily separated from the particular embodiment and optionally combined with or substituted for features of any of a number of other embodiments disclosed herein.

[0083] Regarding terms used herein, it should also be understood the terms are for the purpose of describing some particular embodiments, and the terms do not limit the scope of the concepts provided herein. Ordinal numbers (e.g., first, second, third, etc.) are generally used to distinguish or identify different features or steps in a group of features or steps, and do not supply a serial or numerical limitation. For example, “first,” “second,” and “third” features or steps need not necessarily appear in that order, and the particular embodiments including such features or steps need not necessarily be limited to the three features or steps. Labels such as “left,” “right,” “top,” “bottom,” “front,” “back,” and the like are used for convenience and are not intended to imply, for example, any particular fixed location, orientation, or direction. Instead, such labels are used to reflect, for example, relative location, orientation, or directions. Singular forms of “a,” “an,” and “the” include plural references unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

[0084] With respect to “proximal,” a “proximal portion” or a “proximal-end portion” of, for example, a pad disclosed herein includes a portion of the pad intended to be near a patient when the pad is used on a patient. Likewise, a “proximal length” of, for example, the pad includes a length of the pad intended to be near the patient when the pad is used on the patient. A “proximal end” of, for example, the pad includes an end of the pad intended to be near the patient when the pad is used on the patient. The proximal portion, the proximal-end portion, or the proximal length of the pad can include the proximal end of the pad; however, the proximal portion, the proximal-end portion, or the proximal length of the pad need not include the proximal end of the pad. That is, unless context suggests otherwise, the proximal portion, the proximal-end portion, or the proximal length of the pad is not a terminal portion or terminal length of the pad.

[0085] With respect to “distal,” a “distal portion” or a “distal-end portion” of, for example, a pad disclosed herein includes a portion of the pad intended to be near or in a patient when the pad is used on the patient. Likewise, a “distal length” of, for example, the pad includes a length of the pad intended to be near or in the patient when the pad is used on the patient. A “distal end” of, for example, the pad includes an end of the pad intended to be near or in the patient when the pad is used on the patient. The distal portion, the distal-end portion, or the distal length of the pad can include the distal end of the pad; however, the distal portion, the distal-end portion, or the distal length of the pad need not include the distal end of the pad. That is, unless context suggests otherwise, the distal portion, the distal-end portion, or the distal length of the pad is not a terminal portion or terminal length of the pad.

[0086] Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by those of ordinary skill in the art.

[0087] FIG. 1 illustrates a perspective view of a pad **110** of a waste detection system **100**, in accordance with some embodiments. In some embodiments, the waste detection system **100** includes the pad **110** coupled to an intake manifold **140**. In some embodiments, the pad **110** may be configured to absorb fluid excreted from a patient and transfer the absorbed fluid to the intake manifold **140**, which may be configured to test the fluid and detect the presence of one or more of: stool, urine, *Clostridioides difficile* (“C. Diff”) or the like that will be described in more detail herein.

[0088] In some embodiments, the pad **110** includes a pad length **112** and a pad width **114**, wherein the pad length **112** may be greater than or equal to the pad width **114**. The pad **110** may be configured to include one or more channels **130** within the pad **110** configured to transport the excreted fluid waste from the patient to the intake manifold **140**. In some embodiments, the one or more channels **130** may include microfluidic channels in fluid communication with the intake manifold **140**. In some embodiments, the pad **110** may have a shape including a square, a rectangle, a polygon or the like. In some embodiments, the channels **130** may be arranged in various configurations within the pad **110**. The arrangement of the various configurations of the channels **130** may be used to maximize the collection area of the channels **130** that collect and transport the absorbed fluids to the intake manifold **140**, as will be described in more detail herein. In some embodiments, the channels **130** may be configured to draw fluid from the pad and transfer the fluid to the intake manifold **140** through capillary action, gravity flow, negative pressure flow, self-propulsion or the like. In some embodiments, the channels **130** may be configured to draw fluid from the pad and transfer the fluid to the intake manifold **140** through powered or manually pumped means (e.g., mechanically generated vacuum, electronically generated vacuum, or the like).

[0089] FIG. 2 illustrates a perspective view of the waste detection system **100**, in accordance with some embodiments. In some embodiments, the waste detection system **100** may be utilized in a hospital setting, wherein the pad **110** is placed on, or detachably coupled to a medical bed **200** and the intake manifold **140** may also be coupled to the medical bed **200**. In some embodiments, the intake manifold **140** may be configured to be coupled to the medical bed **200**, wherein the intake

manifold **140** is visible to a caretaker (e.g., suspended from the medical bed **200**, coupled to an arm rest of the medical bed **200** or the like). In some embodiments, the pad **110** may be placed on the medical bed **200**, approximately where the lower abdominal region (e.g., groin region) is configured to rest wherein a patient **202** is in a supine position, a prone position, a right lateral recumbent, a left lateral recumbent, a Fowler's position or the like. Although the waste detection system **100** may be used in a hospital setting, it can be appreciated that the waste detection system **100** may be utilized in a home setting, a wheelchair setting or the like, all of which are considered. In some embodiments, the pad **110** may be detachably coupled to the medical bed **200**, detachably coupled to a sheet on the medical bed **200** or the like, and the patient **202** may sit or lay over the pad **110**, as illustrated in FIG. 2. The patient **202** is free to move around the pad **110**. If the patient **202** has a bowel movement and excretes a fluid (e.g., urine, stool, blood or a combination thereof), a portion of the fluid may be acquired or retained by the pad **110** through wicking the fluid away from the patient **202** and absorbing the fluid into the pad **110**. The portion of the fluid retained by the pad **110** will be referred to as a fluid sample. The fluid sample may be configured to be directed by the pad **110** into the one or more channels **130**, where the fluid sample is further drawn into the intake manifold **140**. In some embodiments, the intake manifold **140** is configured to receive therein the fluid sample from the one or more channels **130**. In some embodiments, the intake manifold **140** may be configured to include one or more reagents **160** that may be configured to detect the presence of urine or stool in the fluid sample within the intake manifold **140** that will be described in more detail herein. If the intake manifold **140** detects the presence of urine or stool within the fluid sample, the one or more reagents **160** or the intake manifold **140** itself, or a portion of the intake manifold **140** may be configured to undergo a visual change including a visual color change that will be described in more detail herein, configured to alert a caretaker that a bowel movement has occurred. In some embodiments, the waste detection system **100** or a portion thereof (e.g., the intake manifold **140**, the pad **110**) may be configured to be disposable.

[0090] FIG. 3A illustrates an exploded perspective view of the pad **110**, in accordance with some embodiments. In some embodiments, the pad **110** may include a proximal side **116** and a distal side **118**, wherein the proximal side **116** is closest to the patient **202** or in physical contact with the patient **202** and the distal side **118** is furthest away from the patient **202**. In some embodiments, the pad **110** may be configured to be constructed of or include one or more layers **120**. In some embodiments, a portion of each of the one or more layers **120**, or the entirety of each layer of the one or more multiple layers **120** may be configured to have absorbent properties, wicking properties or a combination thereof, that will be described in more detail herein. In some embodiments, one or more of the layers **120** may be configured to include the one or more channels **130** that may be organized into various configurations. The various configurations may be engineered to receive a fluid sample from any point on the pad **110**. The one or more channels **130** may be secured to a surface of each layer **120** or integrated within each layer **120**. The channels **130** may be secured to the surface by an adhesive, clips, snaps, or the like. The microfluidic channels may be integrated within each layer **120**. Other mechanisms of securing the one or more microfluidic channel **130** to the layer **120** are also considered.

[0091] In some embodiments, each layer of the multiple layers **120** may be configured to have different properties, constructed of different materials or a combination thereof. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 3A, the pad **110** includes three layers, a first proximal layer **120A**, a second middle layer **120B** having a first microfluidic channel **130A** and a third distal layer **120C** having a second microfluidic channel **130B**. The entirety of the first proximal layer **120A** may be configured to having wicking properties configured to wick a fluid sample away from a skin surface of a patient and direct the fluid sample to be absorbed by the second middle layer **120B** and the third distal layer **120C**, wherein the entirety of the second middle layer **120B** and the entirety of the third distal layer **120C** have absorbent properties. The second middle layer **120B** may be configured to direct the fluid sample to the first microfluidic channel **130A** and the third distal layer **120C** may be

configured to direct the fluid sample to the second microfluidic channel **130B**. In some embodiments, the pad **110** having more than one microfluidic channel **130** allows for fluid flow of the fluid sample to continue if one of the channels **130** is blocked by fecal debris or other solid matter. In some embodiments, each layer of the multiple layers **120** may be constructed of or include: polyester, polyurethane, polypropylene, nylon, bamboo fiber, wool fiber, cotton fiber, hemp fiber, sodium poly-acrylate or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, each layer **120** may be configured to be textured or have patterned ridges. In some embodiments, the distal side **118** of the pad **110** may include fluid proof properties. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 3A, the distal side **118** of the third distal layer **120C** may include vinyl, polyvinyl, a laminate, a synthetic plastic or the like, configured to maintain the fluid sample within the pad **110** and prevent the fluid sample from leaking through the pad **110** to the medical bed **200** or the like. It can be appreciated that greater or lesser number of layers are also contemplated. In some embodiments, the pad **110** may be disposable. The distal side **118** of the pad **110** may be configured to include one or more attachments configured to secure the pad **110** to the medical bed **200**, a sheet on the medical bed **200** or the like. In some embodiments, the one or more attachments may include hook and loop fasteners, adhesive tape, magnetic fasteners, butterfly clips or the like.

[0092] FIG. 3B illustrates a cross sectional view of the microfluidic channel **130** within the pad **110**, in accordance with some embodiments. In some embodiments, the pad **110** includes a microfluidic cavity **138** configured to contain the microfluidic channel **130** therein. In some embodiments, a portion of the one or more layers **120** may be configured to have wicking properties and a portion of the one or more layers **120** may be configured to have absorbent properties. In some embodiments, the microfluidic cavity **138** may be located in a wicking portion **122**, an absorbent portion **124**, or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, the microfluidic channel **130** may include microfluidic tubing having a lumen **132** therein, the lumen **132** being in fluid communication with the intake manifold **140**. The microfluidic tubing may be configured to include one or more intake holes **134** in fluid communication with the lumen **132**. In some embodiments, the wicking portion **122** draws the fluid sample away from the patient **202**, through the wicking portion **122** into the absorbent portion **124**. The fluid sample may be drawn from the absorbent portion, through the one or more intake holes **134** into the lumen **132** and further on to the intake manifold **140**. In some embodiments, the wicking portion **122** may include wicking channels, straw shaped channels configured to direct fluid from the skin surface of the patient to the absorbent portion **124**.

[0093] FIGS. 4A-B illustrates plan views of different embodiments of the pad **110**, in accordance with some embodiments. As illustrated in FIG. 4A, the absorbent portions **124** may be configured in diagonal bands, having two or more channels **130** within each diagonal band. In some embodiments, the channels **130** may funnel to a microfluidic port **136** configured to couple with the intake manifold **140** and maintain the fluid communication between the channels **130** and the intake manifold **140**. In some embodiments, the microfluidic port **136** may combine the fluid samples from multiple channels **130** into one fluid sample or may keep the fluid sample from each microfluidic channel **130** separate. In an embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. 4B, the wicking portion **122** may be larger than the absorbent portion **124**. In this embodiment, the absorbent portion **124** includes the microfluidic channel **130** funneling the fluid sample to the microfluidic port **136**. In some embodiments, the wicking portion **122** may be equal to or less than the absorbent portion **124**.

[0094] FIG. 5A illustrates a perspective view of the intake manifold, in accordance with some embodiments. In some embodiments, the intake manifold **140** has a proximal side **142**, a distal side **144**, a length **146**, a width **148** and a height **150**. The intake manifold **140** may be in the shape of a rectangular prism, a triangular prism or the like. In some embodiments, the intake manifold **140** may be constructed of a clear plastic polymer (e.g., acrylic, polycarbonate, polyethylene terephthalate, amorphous copolyester, polyvinyl chloride, or the like). In some embodiments, the

channels **130** may be configured to couple to and be in fluid communication with the intake manifold **140** at the proximal side **116** or the distal side **118** of the intake manifold **140** and may be configured to be detachably coupled from the intake manifold **140**. In some embodiments, the intake manifold **140** may be disposable or reusable and may be configured to be sterilized in between uses.

[0095] The intake manifold **140** may be configured to receive therein one or more volumes of the fluid sample. In some embodiments, the intake manifold **140** may include one or more chambers **152**. In some embodiments, each chamber of the one or more chambers **152** may be coupled to and in fluid communication with a different microfluidic channel **130** of the pad **110** and the entire fluid sample may be delivered to the chamber **152** by the microfluidic channel **130**. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 5B, wherein the pad **110** includes three channels **130**, the intake manifold **140** may include three chambers **152**, wherein the first chamber **152A** is configured to receive the fluid sample from the first microfluidic channel **130A**, the second chamber **152B** is configured to receive the fluid sample from the second microfluidic channel **130B**, and the third chamber **152C** is configured to receive the fluid sample from the third microfluidic channel **130C**. In some embodiments, wherein the pad **110** includes the microfluidic port **136**, each chamber **152** may be configured to receive the fluid sample combined from the multiple layers **120** and the multiple channels **130**. In some embodiments, each microfluidic channel **130** may be configured to be coupled to the intake manifold **140** and within the intake manifold **140**, the fluid sample may be evenly divided between the one or more chambers **152**. In some embodiments, the one or more chambers **152** may extend through a portion of the intake manifold **140** or the entire height **150** of the intake manifold **140**.

[0096] In some embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. 5A, the intake manifold **140** may include one or more hooks **170** configured to suspend the intake manifold **140** from the medical bed **200**. In some embodiments, the intake manifold **140** may include one or more magnets, hook and loop fasteners or the like to detachably couple the intake manifold **140** to the medical bed **200**. Other mechanisms of detachably coupling the intake manifold **140** to the medical bed **200** are also considered.

[0097] FIG. 5B illustrates a cross sectional view of the intake manifold **140** including the one or more chambers **152**, in accordance with some embodiments. In some embodiments, the intake manifold **140** may be configured to slidably receive the one or more channels **130**. In some embodiments, the microfluidic channels may be coupled to the intake manifold **140** by a magnetic fit, an interference fit, a press fit, snap fit, a twist fit or the like. In some embodiments, the one or more chambers **152** may be the shape of a cylinder, a rectangular prism, a triangle prism, an inverted cone or the like. In some embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. 5B, each chamber **152** may be configured to include the one or more reagents **160** configured to detect the presence of urine or stool in the fluid sample excreted from the patient. In some embodiments, the one or more reagents **160** may include chemicals configured to detect changes in pH including but not limited to methyl red or bromothymol blue, the presence of proteins such as albumin, the presence of blood including but not limited to peroxide and tetramethylbenzidine, the presence of C. Diff. including but not limited to glutamate dehydrogenase and the like. In some embodiments, the one or more reagents **160** may reside in a solution form, a liquid form or a powdered form within the chamber **152**. In some embodiments, the one or more reagents **160** may be configured to emit a visible color or visible color change in the fluid sample in the presence of urine, stool, blood, C. Diff. or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, the visible color or color change within the fluid sample may be used to alert a caretaker that bowel movement has occurred through presence of waste in the fluid sample. In some embodiments, the visible color or color change within the fluid sample may have different meanings. For example, a color change of yellow to blue may indicate the presence of urine while a color change of blue to red may indicate the presence of C. Diff. Both visible color changes indicate to the caretaker that a bowel movement has occurred, however the presence of C. Diff. indicates different cleaning precautions must be undertaken versus just the

presence of urine or stool. Advantageously, the visible color or visible color change within the fluid sample in the intake manifold **140** may be used to timely alert a caretaker that a bowel movement has occurred without the need to question or visually inspect the patient. The visible color or visible color change may indicate to the caretaker that immediate attention and/or cleaning and disposal of the waste detection system **100** is required.

[0098] In some embodiments, the fluid sample may enter the chamber **152** through gravity flow, capillary action, low pressure flow, or the like. The fluid sample may enter into the chamber **152** and mix with the one or more reagents **160**, wherein the one or more reagents **160** react with the fluid sample in a chemical reaction or a biochemical assay to detect the presence of urine or stool within the fluid sample. In some embodiments, each chamber **152** may be configured to include the same one or more reagents, or different reagents. For example, the first chamber **152A** may be configured to include the one or more reagents **160** configured to test for the presence of urine within the fluid sample. The second chamber **152B** may be configured to include the one or more reagents **160** configured to test for the presence of stool within the fluid sample. The third chamber **152C** may be configured to include the one or more reagents **160** configured to test for the presence of C. Diff. within the fluid sample. It can be appreciated that the one or more reagents **160** may include reagents to test additional parameters of the fluid sample including presence of blood cells (red blood cells, white blood cells), presence of nitrites or ions such as sodium, potassium, calcium, phosphate, or proteins, all of which are considered.

[0099] FIG. 5C illustrates a plan view of a method of detecting waste excreted from the patient **202**, in accordance with some embodiments. In some embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. 5C, the intake manifold **140** may include the first chamber **152A** including the one or more reagents **160** configured to test for urine, the second chamber **152B** including the one or more reagents **160** configured to test for stool and the third chamber **152C** including the one or more reagents **160** configured to test for C. Diff. The first chamber **152A** and the third chamber **152C** do not emit a visible color or demonstrate changed in color, indicating the absence of urine or C. Diff. within the fluid sample. The second chamber **152B** does emit a visible color change indicating the presence of stool within the fluid sample.

[0100] FIG. 6 illustrates a flow chart of an exemplary method **300** of detecting the presence of waste in a fluid sample excreted from a patient using the waste detection system **100**, in accordance with some embodiments. In some embodiments, the method **300** includes acquiring a fluid sample excreted from a patient on a pad **110** (block **302**). In some embodiments, acquiring including absorbing the fluid sample using the pad **110** of the waste detection system **100**. In some embodiments, acquiring the fluid sample excreted from the patient on the pad **110** includes the pad **110** being placed under a lower abdominal region of the patient. In some embodiments, acquiring the fluid sample includes the wicking portion **122** wicking away the fluid sample and the absorbent portion **124** absorbing the fluid sample. In some embodiments, the pad **110** includes one or more layers **120** configured to wick away an excreted fluid sample from the skin surface of the patient and absorb the fluid sample into one or more channels **130** on or within the one or more layers **120** of the pad **110**.

[0101] The method **300** further includes transferring the fluid sample from the pad **110** to an intake manifold **140** (block **304**). In some embodiments, the intake manifold **140** may be configured to have the one or more chambers **152** configured to receive therein the fluid sample and have therein one or more reagents **160** configured to detect the presence of urine or stool within the fluid sample. In some embodiments, the intake manifold **140** may be fluidly connected to the one or more channels **130**. In some embodiments, transferring the fluid sample to the intake manifold **140** occurs through capillary action, negative pressure flow, gravity flow or the like. The method **300** further includes detecting the presence of waste in the fluid sample (block **306**). In some embodiments, detecting includes using the one or more reagents **160** in a chemical reaction or biochemical assay within the one or more chambers **152**. In some embodiments, waste includes

urine, stool, blood, or *Clostridioides difficile*. The method **300** further includes indicating a bowel movement has occurred (block **308**). In some embodiments, indicating includes the one or more reagents **160** emitted a visible color or changing visible colors within the intake manifold **140** due to the presence of urine or stool within the fluid sample.

[0102] FIGS. 7A-7B illustrates a perspective view of some components of a waste detection system **400**, in accordance with some embodiments. In some embodiments, the pad **410**, in fluid communication with the intake manifold **440**, may be coupled to the hospital bed **200**. In some embodiments, the waste detection system **400** further includes an analyzer **480**. The analyzer **480** may be configured to detect a visible color or visible color change in the intake manifold **440**, as will be described in more detail herein. In some embodiments, the analyzer **480** may be coupled to the hospital bed **200**. In some embodiments, the intake manifold **440** may be detachable from the pad **410**. Having the intake manifold **440** being detachable from the pad **410** allows for the ability to generate an intake manifold **440** with specific reagents therein. Furthermore, having the intake manifold **440** being detachable allows the intake manifold **440** to be reusable. In some embodiments, the analyzer **480** may be detachably coupled to a docking station **494**. In some embodiments, the docking station **494** may be in communication with a computing device **495**. In some embodiments, when the analyzer **480** is coupled to the docking station **494**, the analyzer **480** may be configured to transmit the detected data to either of the docking station **494** or the computing device **495**. In some embodiments, the docking station **494** may be within a patient's room or may be in a central location. In some embodiments, the docking station **494** may be wired to the computing device **495** or in wireless communication with the computing device **495**.

[0103] As illustrated in FIG. 7B, the intake manifold **440** may be detachable from the pad **410**. The intake manifold **440** may include one or more chambers **452**, as will be described in more detail herein. In some embodiments, a portion of the intake manifold **440** may be configured to be removable. In some embodiments, the portion of the intake manifold **440** that is removable may be configured to be inserted into the analyzer **480** as will be described in more detail herein. The portion of the intake manifold **440** that is removable may include a cover that will be described in more detail herein.

[0104] FIG. 8A illustrates a perspective view the intake manifold **440** including a removable wafer **454**, in accordance with some embodiments. In some embodiments, the intake manifold **440** may include one or more chambers **452A-452F** wherein each chamber in the one or more chambers **452A-452F** is configured to receive therein a portion of the fluid sample. FIG. 8A illustrates **6** chambers **452A-452F**, although greater or lesser numbers of chambers are also contemplated. In some embodiments, each chamber **452** may be configured to includes a separate reagent **460** or a combination of reagents (as indicated in FIG. 8A by the different patterns in each chamber **452A-452F**) that are configured to detect the one or more analytes within the fluid sample. The reagent **460** or combination of reagents **460** may be configured to indicate detection of the one or more analytes within the fluid sample by the generation of a visible color or a visible color change. In some embodiments, the one or more analytes may include urine, stool C. Diff, glucose, proteins, bacteria, or the like. In some embodiments, the reaction of the one or more reagents **460** with one or more analytes within the fluid sample may be referred to hereon as an assay. Each chamber **452** may include a different assay or may include redundant assays configured to allow the clinician to confirm the results of the assays. In some embodiments, the intake manifold **440** may include a standardized panel of assays for detecting the presence of urine or stool in the fluid sample, an advanced panel of assays for detecting the presence of bacteria, C. Diff, or glucose in addition to urine or stool in the fluid sample, a disease state specific panel of assays, a treatment plan panel of assays, or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, the reagent **460** or combination of reagents **460** may be configured to generate a visible color or a visible color change when the concentration of the analyte reach a threshold within the fluid sample. In some embodiments, the reagent **460** or combination of reagents **460** may be configured to generate a visible color or a visible color change

in proportion to the concentration of the analyte (e.g., a color gradient).

[0105] In some embodiments, the intake manifold **440** may be constructed of a clear hardened plastic (e.g., acrylic, polycarbonate, polyethylene terephthalate, amorphous copolyester, polyvinyl chloride, or the like). The intake manifold **440** may be 3D printed, injection molded or the like. The intake manifold **440** may be formed contiguously or may be formed from a plurality of pieces. In some embodiments, the intake manifold **440** may include an intake manifold lid **441** configured to secure the fluid sample within each chamber **454**. In some embodiments, the intake manifold lid **441** may be configured to form a fluid tight seal with the intake manifold **440**. In some embodiments, the intake manifold lid **441** may be clear. In some embodiments, the intake manifold **440** may include a removable wafer **454**, wherein the removable wafer **454** may be configured to receive therein a defined volume of fluid including a portion of the fluid sample and one or more reagents **460** from each chamber **452** within the intake manifold **440**. The removable wafer **454** may be removed from the intake manifold **440**, sealed and inserted into the analyzer **480** to determine and confirm the presence of one or more analytes within the fluid sample.

[0106] FIGS. **8B-8C** illustrates a perspective view of some components of the removable wafer **454** including a wafer cover, in accordance with some embodiments. In some embodiments, the removable wafer **454** may be configured to be slidably removed from the intake manifold **440**. In some embodiments, the removable wafer **454** may be in the shape of a cylindrical disk, rectangular prism, or the like. The removable wafer **454** may be configured to include two or more wafer compartments **455** configured to hold therein a defined volume of a portion of the fluid sample and the one or more reagents **460**. In some embodiments, the number of wafer compartments **455A-455F** may equal the number of chambers **452A-452F** in the intake manifold **440**, wherein each of the wafer compartments **455** corresponds to the respective chamber **452** in the intake manifold **440**. The wafer compartments **455** may be in fluid communication with the chambers **452** in the intake manifold **440**. The removable wafer **454** may be configured to be scalable (e.g., sealed with a fluid tight seal), allowing the removable wafer **454** to be inserted into the analyzer **480** for analysis. In an embodiment, the removable wafer **454** may include a wafer cover **456** configured to create a fluid tight seal with the removable wafer **454**. In this embodiment, the wafer cover **456** may be coupled to the removable wafer **454** through a press fit, a snap fit, an interference fit or the like, as illustrated in FIG. **8B**. In this embodiment, the wafer cover **456** may be configured to be coupled to the removable wafer **454** after the removable wafer **454** is removed from the intake manifold **440**. The wafer cover **456** may also be clear, configured to allow the analyzer **480** to analyze the results of the assays, as illustrated in FIG. **8C**. In this embodiment, each of the removable wafer **454**, or the wafer cover **456** may be disposable. Advantageously, the removable wafer **454** allows the intake manifold **440** to remain coupled to the pad **410** and only the removable wafer **454** is moved to the analyzer **480** for analysis.

[0107] FIGS. **9A-9B** illustrate cross sectional views of the pad **110** of FIG. **3A**, in accordance with some embodiments. In some embodiments, the pad **110** may have pad channels **121** that are in fluid communication with the microfluidic channels **130**. In some embodiments, the pad channels **121** may be oriented in the transverse direction, directing fluid flow from a top layer towards the bottom. In some embodiments, the pad channels **121** may direct fluid into the microfluidic channels **130**. In some embodiments, the pad channels **121** may be defined by wicking fiber **123** with absorbent material **125** therebetween. The wicking fiber **123** draws fluid through the wicking fiber **123** to the absorbent material **125**, allowing the fluid multiple pathways to travel to reach the microfluidic channels **130**. In some embodiments, the wicking fiber **123** may include bamboo fiber, cotton fiber, hemp fiber, microfiber, or the like. In some embodiments, the absorbent material **125** may include polyacrylate, other synthetic resins, or absorbent material.

[0108] In some embodiments, a portion of, or the entire wicking fiber **123** may be covered with a hydrophilic coating **127** as illustrated in FIG. **9B**. In some embodiments, the hydrophilic coating **127** may be configured to create a hydrophilic gradient in the direction of gravity flow. The

hydrophilic gradient may be configured to provide a continuous driving force, by capillary action, for liquid to flow from the top layer to the microfluidic channels **130** and to the intake manifold **140**. Other structures configured to facilitate fluid transportation through the pad (e.g., cylindrical wicking fiber surrounded by super absorbent material, a super hydrophilic layer included as a bottom layer, or the like) are also considered.

[0109] FIG. **10** illustrates a block diagram of some components of the waste detection system **400** including a console **482** of the analyzer **480**, in accordance with some embodiments. In some embodiments, the analyzer **480** includes the console **482**. In some embodiments, the console **482** includes one or more processors **483**, an energy source **484**, non-transitory computer readable medium (“memory”) **485**, and a plurality of logic modules. In some embodiments, the energy source **484** may include a rechargeable battery. In some embodiments, the energy source **484** may be configured to be recharged when the analyzer **480** is coupled to the docking station **494**. In some embodiments, the plurality of logic modules may include one or more of: an analyzer activation logic **486**, a camera activation logic **487**, an analyzer calibration logic **488**, a camera capture logic **489**, a color detection logic **490**, an analyzer correlation logic **491**, an analyzer transmission logic **492**, and an analyzer data store **493**. In some embodiments, the analyzer activation logic **486** may be configured to activate the analyzer **480**. In some embodiments, the analyzer activation logic **486** may be activated when the intake manifold **440** or the removable wafer **454** is inserted into the analyzer **480**.

[0110] In some embodiments, the camera activation logic **487** may be configured to activate a camera **481** within the analyzer **480**. In some embodiments, the camera **481** may be activated when the intake manifold **440** or the removable wafer **454** is slidably received by the analyzer **480**. In some embodiments, the camera **481** may be activated by the user. In some embodiments, the analyzer calibration logic **488** may be configured to calibrate the analyzer **480**. The analyzer **480** may be configured to calibrate to one or more specific colors or color changes based upon the assays contained within the intake manifold **440** or removable wafer **454**. For example, if the intake manifold **440** includes only disease specific assays that include 3 specific colors or color changes, the analyzer calibration logic **488** may be configured to calibrate those 3 specific colors or color changes. In some embodiments, the analyzer **480** may be calibrated on a user defined timetable (e.g., before every use, before a defined number of uses, or at the start of the day). In some embodiments, the camera capture logic **489** may be configured to activate the camera **481** to capture one or more images of a portion of or the entire manifold **440** or a portion of or the entire removable wafer **454**. In some embodiments, the color detection logic **490** may be configured to detect the color or color change within the captured image.

[0111] In some embodiments, the analyzer correlation logic **491** may be configured to correlate the captured images of the intake manifold **440** with a positive or negative result (e.g., color change in the intake manifold **440**). In some embodiments, the analyzer correlation logic **491** may be configured to detect the presence of color or color change within the intake manifold **440**, detect and interpret the type of reaction that has occurred within the intake manifold **440** based on the color or colors present, or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, the analyzer correlation logic **491** may be configured to interpret the color or color change within the intake manifold **440** by correlating the detected color or detected color change with a reference color pad. The reference color pad may be saved easily accessed by the console **482** or may be located on the intake manifold **440** or the removable wafer **454**. In some embodiments, the analyzer correlation logic **491** may be configured to detect and interpret the type of reaction that has occurred within the intake manifold **440** by correlating the detected color or color gradient with a standardized reference color pad. In some embodiments, the analyzer correlation logic **491** may be configured to interpret a conclusively positive or conclusively negative result. In some embodiments, the analyzer correlation logic **491** may be configured to detect and interpret shades of the color or color change as different results. For example, the shade of color may correlate to the concentration of an analyte

within the intake manifold **440**. In some embodiments, the analyzer correlation logic **491** may be configured to generate a numerical value corresponding to the detected color. In some embodiments, if the numerical value is over an established threshold, the console **482** will return a positive result value and if the numerical value is below the established threshold, the console **482** will return a negative result value. In some embodiments, the numerical value may correspond to the concentration of an analyte and the console **482** may return a result value, indicating the concentration of the analyte. In some embodiments, the analyzer correlation logic **491** may be configured to correlate a time of day value with the result value and the captured image of the intake manifold **440** or the removable wafer **454**.

[0112] In some embodiments, the analyzer transmission logic **492** may be configured to transmit the result value, the corresponding time of day value and the captured image to a computing device **495** or electronic medical record system (“EMR”). In some embodiments, the analyzer transmission logic **492** may be configured to transmit the result value, the corresponding time of day value and captured image to the computing device or EMR system when the analyzer **480** is coupled to the docking station **494**. In some embodiments, the analyzer data store **493** may be configured to store the numerical value, the result value, the corresponding time of day value, and the corresponding image captured by the camera **481**.

[0113] FIG. **11** illustrates a flow chart of an exemplary method **500** of receiving and analyzing a fluid sample excreted from a patient for waste, in accordance with some embodiments. In some embodiments, the method **500** includes configuring the waste detection system **400** for collection of a fluid sample (block **502**). In some embodiments, configuring the waste detection system **400** includes placing the pad **410** under the lower abdominal region of a patient. In some embodiments, configuring the waste detection system **400** includes placing the pad **410** on the medical bed **200**. In some embodiments, placing the pad **410** on the medical bed **200** includes coupling the pad **410** to the medical bed **200**. In some embodiments, configuring the waste detection system **400** includes placing the intake manifold **440** in fluid communication with the pad **410**. In some embodiments, placing the intake manifold **440** in fluid communication with the pad **410** includes detachably coupling the intake manifold **440** with the pad **410**. In some embodiments, configuring the waste detection system **400** includes activating the analyzer **480**.

[0114] The method **500** further includes receiving a fluid sample excreted from the patient (block **504**). In some embodiments, receiving a fluid sample excreted from the patient includes the pad **410** receiving the fluid sample from the patient. In some embodiments, the pad **410** receiving the fluid sample by absorbing the fluid sample into the pad **410** including into the one or more layers **420**.

[0115] The method **500** includes transferring the fluid sample from the pad **410** to the intake manifold **440** (block **506**). In some embodiments, transferring the fluid sample from the pad **410** to the intake manifold **440** includes the pad **410** using the pad channels **421** to transfer the fluid sample to the one or more microfluidic channels **430** in fluid communication with the intake manifold **440**. In some embodiments, transferring the fluid sample from the pad **410** to the intake manifold **440** includes using gravity flow or capillary action.

[0116] The method **500** includes detecting one or more analytes in the fluid sample within the intake manifold **440** (block **508**). In some embodiments, detecting one or more analytes in the fluid sample includes using the one or more reagents **460** to detect the one or more analytes. In some embodiments, the one or more reagents **460** may emit a visible color or undergo a visible color change when detecting the one or more analytes in the fluid sample within the intake manifold **440**. In some embodiments, the one or more analytes in the fluid sample may be above a threshold for the one or more reagents **460** to emit a visible color or undergo a visible color change. In some embodiments, the one or more reagents **460** may emit a visible color or undergo a visible color change in proportion to the concentration of the one or more analytes within the fluid sample. In some embodiments, the one or more analytes may include urine, stool, bacteria, glucose, proteins,

or the like. In some embodiments, each chamber **452** in the intake manifold **440** may include separate reagents **460** to detect different analytes or each chamber **452** may include the same reagents **460** to detect the same analytes.

[0117] The method **500** further includes analyzing the detected one or more analytes and transmitting the results to the computing device **495** or EMR system (block **510**). In some embodiments, analyzing the detected one or more analytes includes the analyzer **480** detecting the visible color or visible color changes. In some embodiments, the analyzer **480** may be configured to detect the visible color or visible color changes within the intake manifold **440** or the removable wafer **454** when the intake manifold **440** or the removable wafer **454** is coupled to the analyzer **480**. In some embodiments, the analyzer **480** detects the visible color or visible color changes by a camera **481** capturing one or more images of the intake manifold **440** or the removable wafer **454**. In some embodiments, the console **482** may be configured to correlate the detected visible color or visible color changes with a result value and time of day value, as described above. In some embodiments, the result value may be above or below a threshold. In some embodiments, analyzing the detected one or more analytes and transmitting the results to the computing device **495** or the EMR system includes transmitting the results when the analyzer **480** is coupled to the docking station **494**. In some embodiments, the analyzer **480** may wireless transmit the results to the computing device **495**.

[0118] In some embodiments, analyzing and transmitting the results includes the analyzer **480** analyzing the results and transmitting the results to a computing device or an electronic medical records system. In some embodiments, transmitting includes wirelessly transmitting the results from the analyzer to the computing device or the electronic medical records system. In some embodiments, analyzing the results include the analyzer **480** capturing one or more images of the intake manifold **440**. In some embodiments, analyzing includes comparing the one or more captured images of the intake manifold **440** to standardized image.

[0119] While some particular embodiments have been disclosed herein, and while the particular embodiments have been disclosed in some detail, it is not the intention for the particular embodiments to limit the scope of the concepts provided herein. Additional adaptations and/or modifications can appear to those of ordinary skill in the art, and, in broader aspects, these adaptations and/or modifications are encompassed as well. Accordingly, departures may be made from the particular embodiments disclosed herein without departing from the scope of the concepts provided herein.

Claims

1. A method of detecting waste excreted from a patient, comprising: acquiring a fluid sample excreted from a patient on a pad, the pad having one or more layers and at least one microfluidic channel configured to receive the fluid sample; transferring the fluid sample from the pad to an intake manifold detachably coupled to the pad, the intake manifold in fluid communication with the at least one microfluidic channel; and detecting a presence of waste within the fluid sample via one or more reagents in the intake manifold.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein acquiring the fluid sample excreted from the patient on the pad includes the pad being placed under a lower abdominal region of the patient.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the waste includes urine, stool, blood, or *Clostridioides difficile*.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein acquiring the fluid sample includes wicking away the fluid sample from a patient using a wicking portion of the pad and absorbing the fluid sample into the pad using an absorbing portion of the pad.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein transferring the fluid sample from the pad to the intake manifold includes using capillary action, gravity flow or negative pressure flow.

- 6.** The method according to claim 1, wherein detecting the presence of waste via one or more reagents comprises utilizing a chemical reaction or biochemical assay to detect the presence of waste.
- 7.** The method according to claim 1, wherein detecting the presence of waste via one or more reagents comprises detecting a visible color or change in color in the intake manifold.
- 8.** A method of receiving and analyzing a fluid sample excreted from a patient for waste, comprising: configuring a waste detection system for collection of a fluid sample, the waste detection system having a pad with one or more layers and one or more microfluidic channels configured to receive therein the fluid sample, the one or more microfluidic channels in fluid communication with an intake manifold having one or more reagents configured to detect one or more analytes within the fluid sample, the intake manifold having one or more chambers and a removable wafer configured to receive therein a portion of the fluid sample and an analyzer having a console, the analyzer configured to receive therein a portion of the intake manifold and detect one or more visible colors or visible color changes of the reagents; receiving the fluid sample excreted from the patient; transferring the fluid sample from the pad to the intake manifold; detecting the one or more analytes in the fluid sample within the intake manifold; and analyzing the detected one or more analytes and transmitting the results to a computing device or electronic medical record system.
- 9.** The method according to claim 8, wherein configuring the waste detection system for collection of a fluid sample includes placing the pad under a lower abdominal region of a patient and placing the intake manifold in fluid communication with the pad.
- 10.** The method according to claim 9, wherein receiving a fluid sample excreted from the patient includes the pad acquiring the fluid sample.
- 11.** The method according to claim 10, wherein receiving a fluid sample includes absorbing the fluid sample into the pad.
- 12.** The method according to claim 8, wherein transferring the fluid sample from the pad to the intake manifold includes the pad using the pad channels to transfer the fluid sample to the one or more microfluidic channels in fluid communication with the intake manifold.
- 13.** The method according to claim 8, wherein detecting one or more analytes in the fluid sample includes using the one or more reagents to detect one or more analytes.
- 14.** The method according to claim 13, wherein the one or more analytes include urine, stool, bacteria, glucose, or proteins.
- 15.** The method according to claim 8, wherein the one or more reagents emit a visible color or undergo a visible color change in proportion to the concentration of the one or more analytes within the fluid sample.
- 16.** The method according to claim 8, wherein analyzing the detected one or more analytes includes the analyzer detecting the visible color or visible color changes.
- 17.** The method according to claim 16, wherein the analyzer detects the visible color or visible color changes within the intake manifold or removable wafer.
- 18.** The method according to claim 17, wherein the analyzer includes a camera configured to capture one or more images of the intake manifold or removable wafer.
- 19.** The method according to claim 17, wherein analyzing the detected one or more analytes includes the console correlating the detected visible color or detected visible color change with a result value and time of day value.
- 20.** The method according to claim 8, wherein transmitting the results to the computing device includes the analyzer transmitting the results when the analyzer is coupled to a docking station in communication with the computing device.
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