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Hard-packaged safety needle device

Abstract

A hard-packaged safety needle device comprises a needle hub having a needle cannula extending therefrom and a hard needle enclosure including a needle cover and a cap. The needle cover has an elongated body and a ribbed surface configured to create an interference fit with a proximal portion of the hub. The cap includes a body having an open distal end, a closed proximal end, and a cavity defined by the open distal end and the closed proximal end, the open distal end of the cap abutting an open proximal end of the needle cover.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS (1) This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/315,856, filed on May 10, 2021, now allowed, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (c) to U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/023,481, filed May 12, 2020, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/077,041, filed Sep. 11, 2020, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) The present disclosure relates to a hard-packaged safety needle device.

BACKGROUND

(2) Clean or sterile articles particularly useful for medical applications are packaged to preserve their sterility. The packaging for these articles is intended to provide a barrier to prevent microorganisms from entering inside the packaging to contaminate its contents. In most instances, the packaging is opened immediately prior to using the article, such as with a blister pack housing a needle, so as to minimize the time period in which the article is exposed to unsterile conditions. After use of the needle, package is discarded separate from the needle.

(3) Needle devices are used throughout the medical industry for the injection and withdrawal of a wide variety of fluids and solutions into and from the human body. Because of the numerous potential hazards associated with the handling and manipulation of bodily fluids, and particularly blood, there are a number of known safety features that are frequently incorporated into various types of needle devices to protect the practitioner from accidental exposure to the needle.

(4) The “conventional” hypodermic needle is retrieved from a blister package, the needle shield is removed and then the plastic hub is attached to a luer lock or luer slip syringe. Drug from a vial is then retrieved and administered to the patient via injection. The needle is then discarded either as is or after capping using a recommended method of capping. On the other hand, a safety needle has an extra step wherein an additional component, the safety shield, is deployed to permanently “engulf” the needle thereby making it inaccessible. This ensures that the needle cannot be reused and also contributes to healthcare worker safety—by protecting them from contaminated needle

stick injury.

(5) This extra step is enabled by either a unique hub design that acts as a base for the safety mechanism to attach onto or a very complicated safety shield mechanism. This hub is bulkier and more difficult to mold compared to a conventional needle hub. Similarly the safety mechanism itself is also composed of a component that is difficult to mold and is also bulky. The needle shield is made of a thick walled plastic to ensure the needle does not get damaged pre-use. Additionally the needle shield that protects the needle pre-use finds no utility post use and is discarded adding to the plastic usage.

(6) Such features are limited in their purpose. The needle shield merely protects during transportation and storage, playing no role in safety features of the device. The safety shield is an intricately molded part and interfaces with a needle hub, the connection of the safety shield to the needle hub also being intricately molded, resulting in higher cost for the two components. Thus, there is a need to provide a safety needle device incorporating both features of needle shields and safety shields while reducing manufacturing costs, including materials and molding complexity. Furthermore, there is a need to provide a hard needle enclosure or hard needle cover that provides needle sterility and eliminates the need for a blister pack.

SUMMARY

(7) A first aspect of the present disclosure relates to a safety needle device comprising a needle hub, a needle cannula, a removable collar and a two-piece hinged cap having two elongated bodies in a clamshell configuration. The needle hub is configured to couple to a syringe comprising a distal portion and a proximal portion, the needle hub having a substantially cylindrical shape. The needle cannula extends from the distal portion of the needle hub. The removable collar has a substantially cylindrical body, an aperture extending through the substantially cylindrical body, and two attachment points disposed on an outer surface of the collar, the aperture being sized and configured to receive the proximal portion of the needle hub; the two attachment points being configured to attach to a two-piece hinged cap. The two-piece hinged cap has two elongated bodies in a clamshell configuration, the two elongated bodies configured to close in on one another, each of the elongated bodies having a semicircular cross-section and a cavity defined by an open proximal end and a closed distal end, loops extend from the open proximal end, the loops configured to interdigitate with the two attachment points of the collar.

(8) In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the proximal portion of the needle hub tapers in a distal direction. In one or more embodiments, the needle hub further comprises an at least one thread included on an outer surface of the proximal portion of the needle hub, the at least one thread configured to engage with a standard ISO-2 type of luer fitting. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the aperture of the collar is sized and configured to create an interference fit with the proximal portion of the needle hub.

(9) In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the aperture of the collar is sized and configured to create a loose fit with the proximal portion of the needle hub. In one or more embodiments, the collar freely rotates around the proximal portion of the needle hub. In one or more embodiments, the collar is configured to snap into the needle hub creating an interference fit, the collar being configured to freely rotate only upon application of sufficient force, thereby resisting free movement. In one or more embodiments, the two attachment points are configured as hooks sized to receive loops of the two-piece hinged cap. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the two attachment points are sized and shaped to create a snap fit with the loops of the two-piece hinged cap.

(10) In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the two attachment points create an interference fit with the loops configured to resisting free movement. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the collar and two piece hinged cap are integrally formed. In one or more embodiments, the two attachment points are configured as a living hinge. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the living hinge is configured to have a residual spring action,

wherein the living hinge is in an open state in its resting position. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the open state of the living hinge resists movement of the two-piece hinged cap. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the elongated bodies of the two-piece hinged cap are configured to snap together upon full closure. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, two-piece hinged cap is configured to freely move and the collar is configured to freely rotate around the needle hub in an open state of the safety needle device.

(11) In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the two-piece hinged cap is configured to rotate whereby the practitioner has a clear view of markings disposed on the barrel of the syringe to ensure that a correct dosage is metered. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the two-piece hinged cap is configured to move away from a barrel of a syringe whereby the practitioner has a clear view of markings disposed on the barrel of the syringe to ensure that a correct dosage is metered.

(12) In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, each of the two-piece hinged cap is freely able to open or close independently. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, one of the two-piece hinged cap is movable independent from the other of the one of the two-piece hinged cap. In one or more embodiments, the needle cannula is fully exposed in the open state. In one or more embodiments, the two-piece hinged cap is movable from 0 degrees with respect to the cannula to at least degrees with respect to the needle cannula. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the two-piece hinged cap is closed on itself in a closed state. In one or more embodiments, the safety needle device is packaged and supplied in the closed state. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the two-piece hinged cap is held closed by a disposable plastic seal or sleeve disposed over the two-piece hinged cap.

(13) In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the closed distal end of the two-piece hinged cap is configured to non-removably lock upon closure of the two-piece hinged cap. In one or more embodiments, the safety needle device further comprises a sleeve disposed over the two-piece hinged cap in a closed state, the sleeve movable in a longitudinal direction over the two piece hinged cap. In one or more embodiments, the closed distal end of the two-piece hinged cap is configured to non-removably lock upon closure of the two-piece hinged cap, the closed distal ends defining a final closed state. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the two-piece hinged cap further comprises a locking mechanism disposed a distance from a closed distal end of the two-piece hinged cap.

(14) In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the locking mechanism comprises a hook tab projecting from an edge of one of the two-piece hinged cap and a corresponding aperture disposed within the cavity of the other of the two-piece hinged cap. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the aperture is configured to interdigitate and removably or non-removably receive the hook tab.

(15) In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the aperture is configured to interdigitate and removably receive the hook tab in a closed state. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the aperture is configured to interdigitate and non-removably receive the hook tab in a closed state. In one or more embodiments, the locking mechanism comprises an aperture disposed within a cavity of the of one of the two-piece hinged cap and a corresponding hook tab projecting from an edge of the other of the two-piece hinged cap. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the safety needle device further comprising push features disposed on the elongated bodies of the two-piece hinged cap.

(16) In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the push features has a triangular shape, the triangular shape having a hypotenuse face configured to abut a barrel surface of a syringe when the needle hub is connected to the luer connector of the syringe. In one or more embodiments, the hypotenuse face is configured to aid in pushing the two-piece hinged cap together. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, a right face of the triangular shape is configured to aid in pulling the two-piece hinged cap apart.

(17) In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, an aperture extending through a right face of the triangular shape forms an edge between the aperture and the hypotenuse face, the hypotenuse face configured to aid in pulling the two-piece hinged cap apart. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the push features are configured as tabs protruding from the elongated bodies of the two-piece hinged cap. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the tabs comprise a neck, a thumb press surface and a barrel engaging surface, the barrel engaging surface configured to abut the barrel surface of the syringe when a needle hub is connected to a luer connector of the syringe. In one or more embodiments, the thumb press surface is configured to aid in pushing the two-piece hinged cap onto one another. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, a distal edge of the thumb press surface is configured to allow the practitioner to pull the two-piece hinged cap apart.

(18) In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the thumb press surface is substantially parallel to the two-piece hinged cap. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the barrel engaging surface extends at an angle to the thumb press surface. In one or more embodiments of the first aspect, the barrel engaging surface extends at a right angle to the thumb press surface. In one or more embodiments, the thumb press surface is disposed on the neck, the thumb press surface being at a substantially right angle to the two-piece hinged cap, the barrel engaging surface extending at a right angle from the thumb press surface.

(19) A second aspect of the present disclosure relates to a hard-packaged safety needle device comprising a needle hub, a needle cannula and a hard needle enclosure including a needle cover and a cap. The needle hub is configured to couple to a syringe comprising a distal portion and a proximal portion, the needle hub having a substantially cylindrical shape. The needle cannula extends from the distal portion of the needle hub. The needle cover has an elongated body, a cavity defined by an open proximal end and a closed distal end, a proximal portion, a medial portion and a distal portion, the proximal portion having a cylindrical surface configured to mate with a cap, the medial portion being defined by a flange extending from the elongated body, the elongated body further having an inner surface of the cavity having a proximal inner surface, a medial inner surface, and a distal inner surface, the proximal inner surface including a ribbed surface configured to create an interference fit with the proximal portion of the hub. The cap includes a substantially cylindrical body having an open distal end, a closed proximal end, and a cavity defined by the open distal end and the closed proximal end, the open distal end of the cap abutting the open proximal end of the needle cover.

(20) In one or more embodiments of the second aspect, the needle hub further comprises a plurality of longitudinal ribs extending from the distal portion of the needle hub. In one or more embodiments, the medial inner surface of the needle cover includes a plurality of protrusions extending from the medial surface, the plurality of protrusions being configured to interdigitate with the plurality of longitudinal ribs of the needle hub. In one or more embodiments of the second aspect, each of the plurality of longitudinal ribs nest between two of the plurality of protrusions, preventing rotational movement of the needle hub. In one or more embodiments of the second aspect, a removable interference fit is created between the proximal portion of the needle hub and the ribbed surface of the proximal inner surface.

(21) In one or more embodiments of the second aspect, the cap further comprises a plurality of protrusions extending from an inner surface of the cavity of the cap, the plurality of protrusions extend longitudinally from the inner surface. In one or more embodiments of the second aspect, the plurality of protrusions of the cap comprises a distal portion adjacent to the open distal end of the cap, the distal portion tapering inwardly from the open distal end the taper configured to create an interference fit with the proximal portion of the needle cover upon insertion of the cap over the proximal portion of the needle cover. In one or more embodiments of the second aspect, a proximal portion of the plurality of protrusions of the cap extends further from the inner surface of the cap and is configured to abut the proximal portion of the needle hub upon insertion of the cap over the proximal portion of the needle cover. In one or more embodiments, the hard needle enclosure

further comprises a sleeve formed into a cylindrical shape comprising an open proximal end, an open distal end and a plurality of perforations disposed radially around the cylindrical shape, the plurality of perforations configured to break upon separation of the needle cover from the cap.

(22) In one or more embodiments of the second aspect, the sleeve further comprising a tab integrally formed with the sleeve. In one or more embodiments of the second aspect, the tab includes labeling or instructions. In one or more embodiments, the sleeve is heat-sealed to the needle cover the cap. In one or more embodiments of the second aspect, the sleeve configured as a tamper-evident seal. In one or more embodiments of the second aspect, the sleeve fully covers the cap and the proximal end of the needle cover. In one or more embodiments, the plurality of perforations are near or directly over the open distal end of the cap and the open proximal end of the needle cover when the hard needle enclosure is assembled.

(23) A third aspect of the present disclosure relates to a hard-packaged safety needle device comprising a needle hub, a needle cannula, and a hard enclosure including a needle cover, an adapter and a cap. The needle hub is configured to couple to a syringe comprising a distal portion and a proximal portion, the needle hub having a substantially cylindrical shape. The needle cannula extends from the distal portion of the needle hub. The needle cover is configured to house the needle cannula and the distal portion of the needle hub, the needle cover having a tapered cylindrical outer surface. The adapter has a substantially cylindrical body including a proximal portion, a distal portion and an outside cylindrical surface, the distal portion having a tapered aperture configured to create an interference fit and a sterility barrier with the tapered cylindrical outer surface of the needle cover, the proximal portion having a second cavity in communication with the tapered aperture. The cap has a substantially cylindrical shape including a distal opening defining a first cavity, the cap being configured to interdigitate with the adapter by the first cavity of the cap receiving the proximal portion of the adapter.

(24) In one or more embodiments of the third aspect, the outside cylindrical surface creates or forms an interference fit and a sterility barrier with an inside surface of the first cavity when the adapter and the cap first cavity are connected. In one or more embodiments, the outside cylindrical surface creates or forms a snap fit and a sterility barrier with the inside surface of the first cavity when the adapter and the cap first cavity are connected. In one or more embodiments of the third aspect, the outside cylindrical surface is removably bonded with adhesive onto the inside surface of the first cavity. In one or more embodiments of the third aspect, the outside cylindrical surface is threaded into the inside surface of the first cavity.

(25) In one or more embodiments of the third aspect, the tapered aperture of the adapter is configured to interdigitate with a conventional needles or a commercially available needle. In one or more embodiments, the hard needle enclosure further comprises a hinge having a distal connection to the outside cylindrical surface of the adapter and a proximal connection to an outside cylindrical surface of the cap. In one or more embodiments of the third aspect, the hard needle enclosure is opened with one handed operation by applying a proximal force F against the outside cylindrical surface of the adapter opposite the hinge. In one or more embodiments of the third aspect, the proximal opening and the distal opening are removably bonded together with adhesive.

(26) In one or more embodiments of the third aspect, the hard needle enclosure further comprises a label disposed on a distal wall of the first cavity of the cap. In one or more embodiments of the third aspect, the label indicates that the hard needle enclosure has been opened or used. In one or more embodiments of the third aspect, the label includes words, numbers or symbols. In one or more embodiments, the label includes a biohazard symbol.

(27) In one or more embodiments of the third aspect, the cap further comprises a second cavity having an inside surface, the second cavity of the cap being configured to interdigitate with the adapter. In one or more embodiments, the outside cylindrical surface of the adapter creates or forms an interference fit and a sterility barrier with an inside surface of the first cavity when the adapter and the cap first cavity are connected. In one or more embodiments of the third aspect, the adapter

further comprises a ledge having a triangular shape, wherein a right face of the ledges is located opposite a sloped surface of the ledge, the ledge of the adapter disposed on the outside surface of the adapter.

(28) In one or more embodiments of the third aspect, the cap comprises a holding tab disposed on the inside surface of the first cavity, the tab configured to removably snap-fit with the ledge of the adapter upon insertion of the adapter into the first cavity of the cap. In one or more embodiments of the third aspect, the cap further comprises a ledge including a locking surface disposed on the inside surface of the first cavity, the ledge of the cap having a triangular shape, wherein a right face of the ledge of the cap is located opposite a sloped surface of the ledge, the ledge of the cap being configured to create a non-removable snap fit with the ledge of the adapter upon insertion of the adapter into the second cavity of the adapter.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) FIG. 1 illustrates a perspective view of a safety needle device according to an exemplary first embodiment of the present disclosure;
- (2) FIG. 2 illustrates a perspective view of a needle hub of the safety needle device of the first embodiment;
- (3) FIG. 3 illustrates a perspective view of a collar of the safety needle device of the first embodiment;
- (4) FIG. 4 illustrates a perspective view of a cap of the safety needle device of the first embodiment;
- (5) FIG. 5 illustrates a perspective view of the safety needle device of the first embodiment in a closed state;
- (6) FIG. 6 illustrates a perspective view of the safety needle device of the first embodiment in an open state;
- (7) FIG. 7 illustrates a detailed view of a locking mechanism of a safety needle device of a second embodiment.
- (8) FIG. 8 illustrates a side view of the safety needle device of the second embodiment in an open state;
- (9) FIG. 9 illustrates a side view of the safety needle device of the second embodiment in a closed state;
- (10) FIG. 10 illustrates a detailed side view of the safety needle device of the second embodiment;
- (11) FIG. 11A illustrates a side view of the safety needle device of the second embodiment in the open state;
- (12) FIG. 11B illustrates a side view of the safety needle device of the second embodiment in the open state, the safety needle device attached to a syringe barrel;
- (13) FIG. 12 illustrates a side view of the safety needle device of a third embodiment in an open state;
- (14) FIG. 13 illustrates a side view of the safety needle device of the third embodiment in the open state;
- (15) FIG. 14 illustrates a side view of the safety needle device of the third embodiment in the open state;
- (16) FIG. 15 illustrates a side view of the safety needle device of a fourth embodiment in an open state;
- (17) FIG. 16 illustrates a side view of the safety needle device of the fourth embodiment in the open state;
- (18) FIG. 17 illustrates a side view of the safety needle device of the fourth embodiment in the

open state.

(19) FIG. **18** illustrates an exploded view of a hard needle enclosure according to a second embodiment of the present disclosure;

(20) FIG. **19** illustrates an assembled view of the hard needle enclosure according to the second embodiment of the present disclosure;

(21) FIG. **20** illustrates a perspective view of a needle hub of the hard needle enclosure according to the second embodiment of the present disclosure;

(22) FIG. **21** illustrates a perspective view of a hard needle cover of the hard needle enclosure according to the second embodiment of the present disclosure;

(23) FIG. **22** illustrates a cross-sectional view of the hard needle cover of the hard needle enclosure according to the second embodiment of the present disclosure;

(24) FIG. **23** illustrates a detailed side view of the hard needle enclosure according to the second embodiment of the present disclosure;

(25) FIG. **24** illustrates a detailed cross-sectional view of the hard needle enclosure according to the second embodiment of the present disclosure;

(26) FIG. **25** illustrates a perspective view of a cap of the hard needle enclosure according to the second embodiment of the present disclosure;

(27) FIG. **26** illustrates a cross-sectional view perspective view of the cap of the hard needle enclosure according to the second embodiment of the present disclosure;

(28) FIG. **27** illustrates a perspective view of a removable sleeve of the hard needle enclosure according to the second embodiment of the present disclosure;

(29) FIG. **28** illustrates a perspective side view of the hard needle enclosure according to the second embodiment of the present disclosure;

(30) FIG. **29** illustrates a cross-sectional view of the hard needle enclosure according to the second embodiment of the present disclosure;

(31) FIG. **30** illustrates a cross-sectional view of a hard needle enclosure according to a third embodiment of the present disclosure;

(32) FIG. **31** illustrates a cross-sectional exploded view of the hard needle enclosure according to a third embodiment of the present disclosure;

(33) FIG. **32** illustrates a cross-sectional view of a hard needle enclosure according to a fourth embodiment of the present disclosure;

(34) FIG. **33A** illustrates a cross-sectional view of an adapter of the hard needle enclosure according to the fourth embodiment of the present disclosure;

(35) FIG. **33B** illustrates the adapter of the hard needle disclosure shown in FIG. **33A** upon application of force F ;

(36) FIG. **34** illustrates a cross-sectional view of a hard needle enclosure according to a fifth embodiment of the present disclosure;

(37) FIG. **35** illustrates an exploded cross-sectional view of a hard needle enclosure according to a sixth embodiment of the present disclosure;

(38) FIG. **36** illustrates an exploded cross-sectional view of the hard needle enclosure according to the sixth embodiment of the present disclosure; and

(39) FIG. **37** illustrates an exploded cross-sectional view of the hard needle enclosure according to the sixth embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(40) Embodiments of the disclosure aims to provide a safety mechanism incorporating features of both needle shields and safety shield mechanisms, reducing material costs, manufacturing complexity and waste.

(41) Embodiments of the disclosure pertain to a safety needle device for connection to a medical connector, including threaded connections. In one or more embodiments, the safety needle comprises a collar configured to interdigitate with a conventional needle hub, the collar having

attachment points for a hinged cap, the hinged cap being in a two-piece configuration. In further embodiments, the safety needle device comprises a removable hard needle cover configured to cover needle cannula and a distal portion of a needle hub. The hard needle enclosure further comprises a cap configured to interdigitate with the needle cover and cover a proximal portion of the needle hub. The cap and at least a portion of the needle cover are covered by a removable sleeve which holds the cap and the needle cover together. Even further embodiments comprise a needle hub, a needle cover, an adapter and a cap, the adapter configured to attach to a conventional needle cap. The disclosure aims to provide a safety mechanism incorporating features of both needle shields and safety shield mechanisms, reducing material costs, manufacturing complexity and waste.

(42) Other embodiments of the disclosure pertain to hard-packaged needle devices including a hard needle enclosure. In one or more embodiments, the needle for blister packaging is eliminated because the hard needle enclosure provides sterile packaging of the needle.

(43) Before describing several exemplary embodiments of the disclosure, it is to be understood that the disclosure is not limited to the details of construction or process steps set forth in the following description. The disclosure is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced or being carried out in various ways.

(44) For purposes of the description hereinafter, the terms “top”, “bottom”, “longitudinal”, and derivatives thereof shall relate to the disclosure as it is oriented in the drawing figures. However, it is to be understood that the disclosure may assume alternative variations and step sequences, except where expressly specified to the contrary. It is also to be understood that the specific devices and processes illustrated in the attached drawings, and described in the following specification, are simply exemplary embodiments of the disclosure. Hence, specific dimensions and other physical characteristics related to the embodiments disclosed herein are not to be considered as limiting.

(45) As used herein, the use of “a,” “an,” and “the” includes the singular and plural.

(46) As used herein, the term “Luer connector” refers to a connection collar that is the standard way of attaching syringes, catheters, hubbed needles, IV tubes, etc. to each other. The Luer connector consists of one or more interlocking tubes, slightly tapered to hold together with just a simple pressure/twist fit/friction fit. Luer connectors can optionally include an additional outer rim of threading, allowing them to be more secure. The Luer connector can interlock and connect to the end located on the vascular access device (VAD). A Luer connector comprises a distal end, a proximal end, an irregularly shaped outer wall, a profiled center passageway for fluid communication from the chamber of the barrel of a syringe to the hub of a VAD. A Luer connector also has a distal end channel that releasably attaches the Luer connector to the hub of a VAD, and a proximal end channel that releasably attaches the Luer connector to the barrel of a syringe. As used herein, the term “Luer connector” refers to a male luer connector or a female luer connector.

(47) As used herein, the term “medical device” refers to common medical devices having threaded or interlocking connections, the connections having corresponding mating elements. By way of example but not limitation, a syringe may have a threaded connection which releasably interlocks with a secondary medical device such as a needleless connector of a catheter, an IV line and the like. The threaded connection may include a lumen defining a fluid path surrounded by a protruding wall having the threaded means for attaching to the secondary medical device.

(48) As would be readily appreciated by skilled artisans in the relevant art, while descriptive terms such as “thread”, “taper”, “tab”, “wall”, “top”, “side”, “bottom” and others are used throughout this specification to facilitate understanding, it is not intended to limit any components that can be used in combinations or individually to implement various aspects of the embodiments of the present disclosure.

(49) A first embodiment of the safety needle device comprises a removable collar configured to interdigitate with a conventional needle hub, the collar having attachment points for a hinged cap, the hinged cap being in a two-piece configuration which fold to cover a needle cannula of the

needle hub. In one or more embodiments, the collar and the two-piece hinged cap are configured as a shield assembly that may be fitted to conventional needle hubs and may be packaged separately. In one or more embodiments, the two-piece hinged cap is configured as a re-use prevention mechanism by irreversibly snapping together after use of the needle. In one or more embodiments, the collar is configured to freely rotate around the needle hub, thereby allowing a practitioner to move the two-piece hinged cap out of the field of view or away from the insertion site. In further embodiments, the safety needle device comprises a removable hard needle cover configured to cover needle cannula and a distal portion of a needle hub. The hard needle enclosure further comprises a cap configured to interdigitate with the needle cover and cover a proximal portion of the needle hub. The cap and at least a portion of the needle cover are covered by a removable sleeve which holds the cap and the needle cover together. Even further embodiments comprise a needle hub, a needle cover, an adapter and a cap, the adapter configured to attach to a conventional needle cap. In an exemplary implementation of the embodiments of present disclosure, the disinfection cap includes integrated threads or tabs, and other features in any and all combinations allowing it to interface with a threaded fitting of a medical device. In preferred embodiments, the disinfection cap interfaces with a Luer fitting. Exemplary configurations for couplers, fittings, ports and adapters may include commercially available luer locks, luer slip ports, locking ports, threaded connections, interlocking connection or generally other common medical device fitting known in the art.

(50) Referring now to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals designate identical or corresponding parts throughout the several views, embodiments of the present disclosure are described as follows.

(51) As depicted in FIG. 1, a first embodiment of the safety needle device **100** comprises a removable collar **130** configured to interdigitate with a needle hub **110**, the collar **130** having two attachment points (**132**, **134**) for a two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**). The hub **110** is configured to couple to a syringe. The two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**) is configured to fold over and cover a needle cannula **112** of the needle hub **110**. In one or more embodiments, the two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**) is configured as a re-use prevention mechanism by irreversibly snapping together after use of the needle cannula **112**. In one or more embodiments, the two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**) is configured as a shield assembly that may be fitted to conventional needle hubs and may be packaged separately. In one or more embodiments, the collar **130** is configured to freely rotate around the needle hub **110**, thereby allowing a practitioner to move the two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**) out of the field of view or away from the insertion site. In one or more embodiments, the collar **130** is configured to non-removably interdigitate with the needle hub **110** to prevent removal of the collar **130**.

(52) As shown in FIG. 2, the needle hub **110** comprises a cylindrical body having a distal portion **114** and a proximal portion **116**. From the distal portion **114** extends a needle cannula **112** in a distal direction. In one or more embodiments, the distal portion **114** further includes a plurality of longitudinal ribs **115**. The proximal portion **116** has a substantially cylindrical shape. In one or more embodiments, the proximal portion **116** tapers in a distal direction. The proximal portion **116** further comprises a cavity in fluid communication with the lumen, the cavity being configured to receive a hub of a luer connector. In one or more embodiments, the cavity can be configured to facilitate a loose fit between the cavity and the hub of the luer connector, wherein the needle hub **110** is secured by an at least one thread **118** or set of tabs included on an outer surface of the proximal portion **116**. The at least one thread **118** is sized and to have a thread pattern that will engage with a standard ISO-2 type of luer fitting. In further embodiments, the cavity can be configured in a Luer Slip fitting to facilitate an interference fit between the cavity and the hub of the luer connector. In one or more embodiments, the interference fit can be configured to be sufficiently strong enough to not require a threaded connection or the at least one thread **118** in removably securing the cavity to the luer connector. In one or more embodiments, the at least one

thread **118** can include an inclined thread pattern. In one or more embodiments, the at least one thread **118** can include a helical-shaped thread pattern. Such connectors are generally and commonly used as catheter and other fluid-tight protective connectors in medical applications. Further alternate embodiments are non-removably or removably assembled with a threaded connection, press-fit connection, adhesive connection or a combination thereof.

(53) As shown in FIG. 3, the removable collar **130** comprises a substantially cylindrical body having an aperture **136** extending therethrough. The aperture **136** is sized and configured to receive the proximal portion **116** of the needle hub **110**. In one or more embodiments, the aperture **136** is sized and configured to create an interference fit with the proximal portion **116** of the needle hub **110**. In one or more embodiments, the aperture **136** is sized and configured to create a loose fit with the proximal portion **116** of the needle hub **110**. In one or more embodiments, the collar **130** freely rotates around the proximal portion **116** of the needle hub **110**. In one or more embodiments, the collar **130** is configured to snap into the needle hub **110**, whereby the collar **130** is able to freely rotate, but not able to move in a longitudinal direction, and is thus not removable from the needle hub **110**. In one or more embodiments, the collar **130** can be removed upon sufficient application of force, the force being greater than forces normally exhibited upon said devices, thereby preventing inadvertent removal. In one or more embodiments, the collar **130** is configured to snap into the needle hub **110** creating an interference fit, whereby the collar **130** is able to freely rotate only upon application of sufficient force, thereby resisting free movement.

(54) The collar **130** further comprises two attachment points (**132**, **134**) disposed on an outer surface of the collar **130**, each of the two attachment points (**132**, **134**) being configured to attach to each of the two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**). In one or more embodiments, the two attachment points (**132**, **134**) are disposed 180 degrees from one another. In one or more embodiments, the two attachment points (**132**, **134**) protrude from the outer surface of the collar **130** and are in the form of hooks, each hook being configured to the hooks being configured to receive loops (**144**, **146**) of the two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**). The two attachment points (**132**, **134**) are sized and shaped to create a snap fit with the loops (**144**, **146**) of the two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**). In one or more embodiments, the two attachment points (**132**, **134**) protrude from the outer surface of the collar **130** and are in the form of loops, each loop being configured to interdigitate with hooks of the two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**). In one or more embodiments, the two attachment points (**132**, **134**) and loops (**144**, **146**) also create an interference fit, whereby the two attachment points (**132**, **134**) are able to freely rotate only upon application of sufficient force, thereby resisting free movement.

(55) In one or more embodiments, the collar **130** and the two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**) are integrally formed. In one or more embodiments, the collar **130** and the two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**) are integrally formed, the two attachment points (**132**, **134**) being configured as a living hinge. In one or more embodiments, the two attachment points (**132**, **134**) are configured as a living hinge having a residual spring action, wherein the living hinge is in an open state in its resting position. The open state of the living hinge resists movement of the two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**), keeping the two two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**) away from the insertion site.

(56) As shown in FIG. 4, each of the pieces of the two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**) comprises elongated bodies having a semicircular cross-section. Each of the two elongated bodies have a cavity (**148**, **150**) defined by an open proximal end (**152**, **154**) and a closed distal end (**156**, **158**). From the open proximal ends (**152**, **154**) extend loops (**144**, **146**) configured to interdigitate with the two attachment points (**132**, **134**) disposed on the outer surface of the collar **130**. The two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**) is configured as a clamshell configuration, in which each of the elongated bodies are configured to close in on one another, providing for a closed cavity in which the needle cannula **112** is protected. In one or more embodiments, the elongated bodies snap together upon full closure. In one or more embodiments, each of the two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**) are identical to one another. In one or more embodiments, each of the two-piece hinged cap (**140**, **142**) are configured to be manufactured or shot from the same mold, thus reducing manufacturing costs due

to simplification of the molding.

(57) In one or more embodiments, as shown in FIG. 5, the safety needle device **100** is packaged and supplied to medical practitioners in a closed state. In one or more embodiments, the safety needle device **100** is packaged within blister packaging to maintain sterility. In the closed state, the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) is reversibly closed onto itself. In one or more embodiments, the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) is held closed by a disposable plastic seal or sleeve disposed over the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**). In one or more embodiments, the disposable seal or sleeve is loosely fit over the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**). In one or more embodiments, the disposable plastic seal or sleeve has perforations or break points configured to break open upon pulling apart the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**). In one or more embodiments, the disposable plastic seal or sleeve has a pull tab configured to separate the disposable plastic seal or sleeve upon application of force away from the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**). In one or more embodiments, the disposable plastic seal or sleeve is sealed with an adhesive that is weak enough to separate upon application of force away from the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**).

(58) As shown in FIG. 5, the assembled safety needle device **100** is in an open state, in which the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) is freely able to open or close or move and the collar **130** is freely able to rotate around the needle hub **110**. In the open state, the needle cannula **112** is fully exposed and may be inserted into the skin of a patient. Due to the free movement of the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) and the collar **130** with respect to the needle hub **110**, the practitioner is able to rotate or move the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) away from the insertion site or out of the field of view of the practitioner. In the open state, the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) is movable from 0 degrees with respect to the cannula **112** to at least 170 degrees with respect to the needle cannula **112**. In one or more embodiments, the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) is movable from 0 degrees with respect to the cannula **112** to at least 150 degrees with respect to the needle cannula **112**. In one or more embodiments, the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) is movable from 0 degrees with respect to the cannula **112** to at least 125 degrees with respect to the needle cannula **112**. In one or more embodiments, the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) is movable from 0 degrees with respect to the cannula **112** to approximately 170 degrees with respect to the needle cannula **112**.

(59) Throughout the full range of motion the practitioner is able to either rotate or move the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) away from a barrel of a syringe whereby the practitioner has a clear view of markings disposed on the barrel of the syringe to ensure that a correct dosage is metered. In one or more embodiments, each of the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) is freely able to open or close independently, wherein one of the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) is movable independent from the other of the one of the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**).

(60) As shown in FIGS. 5 and 6, upon administration of the medical treatment, the practitioner may close the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) onto itself to bring the safety needle device **100** to a final closed state. This action may be performed with the same hand used to administer the medical treatment or the opposite hand. Due to the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) closing in a snap-fitment, pressure to the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) is sufficient to close the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**). In one or more embodiments, the closed distal ends (**156, 158**) of the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) are configured to non-removably lock upon closure of the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) in the final closed state, thereby preventing reuse of the safety needle device **100**. The safety needle device **100** in the final closed state may then be disposed in accordance with conventional biohazard waste practices.

(61) In an alternative embodiment, a sleeve may be disposed over the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) in the closed state. The sleeve can move up and down in a longitudinal direction over two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) and in doing so, push the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) together or pull the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) apart, or alternatively, permit the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) to come apart. In one or more embodiments, the two-piece hinged cap (**140, 142**) is molded having a living hinge with a residual spring action. In one or more embodiments, the sleeve

locks the two-piece hinged cap (140, 142).

(62) A second embodiment of the present disclosure is shown in FIGS. 7-9, the second embodiment incorporating the elements of embodiments disclosed herein. A two-piece hinged cap (240, 242) of a safety needle device 200 further comprises a locking mechanism disposed a distance from a closed distal end (256, 258) of the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242). The locking mechanism comprises a hook tab 264 projecting from an edge 265 of one of the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242) and a corresponding aperture 268 disposed within the cavity 250 of the other of the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242), the aperture 268 configured to interdigitate and removably or non-removably receive the hook tab 264. In one or more embodiments, one of the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242) further comprises an aperture 266 disposed within a cavity 248 of the of one of the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242) and a corresponding hook tab 269 projecting from an edge 257 of the other of the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242), the aperture 268 being configured to interdigitate and removably or non-removably receive the hook tab 269.

(63) As shown in FIG. 9, the hook tab 264 being received within the corresponding aperture 268 and the hook tab 269 being received within the corresponding aperture 268 removably or non-removably lock the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242) together. In one or more embodiments, the locking mechanism is configured to non-removably lock upon closure of the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242) in the final closed state, thereby preventing reuse of the safety needle device 200. The safety needle device 200 in the final closed state may then be disposed in accordance with conventional biohazard waste practices.

(64) As shown in FIGS. 8 through 11, in one or more embodiments, each of the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242) of the safety needle device 200 further comprises push features (260, 262) configured to abut a barrel surface of a syringe when a needle hub 210 is connected to a luer connector of the syringe and in an open state. The push features (260, 262) are disposed on the elongated bodies of the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242). In one or more embodiments, the push features (260, 262) have a triangular shape, the triangular shape having a hypotenuse face (270, 272) configured to abut the barrel surface of the syringe when a needle hub 210 is connected to the luer connector of the syringe while in the open state, and a right face (274, 276), the right face (274, 276) being at a right angle with the surfaces of the elongated bodies of the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242). In one or more embodiments, the push features (260, 262) are configured as grip features for aiding in manipulating the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242).

(65) In one or more embodiments, as shown in FIG. 10, the hypotenuse face (270, 272) further includes a textured or hatched surface 273. The textured or hatched surface 273 aids in manipulation of the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242). In one or more embodiments, the hypotenuse face (270, 272) aids in pushing the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242) together. In one or more embodiments, the right face (274, 276) further includes an aperture 275 extending through the right face (274, 276). An edge 277 formed by the aperture 275 and the hypotenuse face (270, 272) is configured to allow or aid the practitioner to pull the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242) apart.

(66) As shown in FIG. 11A, the safety needle device 200 is in a fully open state, wherein the hypotenuse face (270, 272) abuts the barrel surface of a syringe. In the fully open state, the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242) is freely able to open or close or move and the collar 230 is freely able to rotate around the needle hub 210. In the fully open state, the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242) is movable from 0 degrees with respect to the cannula 212 to at least 175 degrees with respect to the needle cannula 212. Throughout the full range of motion the practitioner is able to either rotate or move the two-piece hinged cap (240, 242) away from a barrel of the syringe whereby the practitioner has a clear view of markings disposed on the barrel of the syringe to ensure that a correct dosage is metered.

(67) As shown in FIG. 11B, the safety needle device 200 is in the fully opened state and attached to a syringe barrel 90. The syringe barrel 90 comprises an elongated cylindrical body 91 having an open proximal end (not shown) and a distal end 92 defining a cavity for retaining fluids. The

cylindrical body **91** has an outside cylindrical surface **94**, which in some embodiments, has markings or fluid volume indicators.

(68) A proximal portion **216** of the needle hub **110** is inserted over an elongated tip (not shown) disposed on the distal end **92** of the barrel **90**, securing the needle hub **110** on the elongated tip. In the fully opened state, the hypotenuse face (**270, 272**) abuts the outside cylindrical surface **94** of the syringe barrel **90** creating a hard stop for the range of motion of the two-piece hinged cap (**240, 242**). As shown, the two-piece hinged cap (**240, 242**) in the fully opened state is at angle of 170 degrees with respect to the cannula **212** whereby the hypotenuse face (**270, 272**) abuts the outside cylindrical surface **94** of the syringe barrel **90**. As shown, in the fully opened state, the needle cannula **212** is fully exposed and unobstructed, allowing a practitioner to have a full view of the needle cannula **212** being inserted into an insertion site of the patient's skin.

(69) In one or more embodiments, in the fully open state, the two-piece hinged cap (**240, 242**) is movable from 0 degrees with respect to the cannula **212** to at least 175 degrees with respect to the needle cannula **212**. In one or more embodiments, in the fully open state, the two-piece hinged cap (**240, 242**) is movable from 0 degrees with respect to the cannula **212** to at least 165 degrees with respect to the needle cannula **212**. In one or more embodiments, in the fully open state, the two-piece hinged cap (**240, 242**) is movable from 0 degrees with respect to the cannula **212** to at least 160 degrees with respect to the needle cannula **212**.

(70) As shown in FIGS. **12-14**, a third embodiment is described, the third embodiment incorporating the elements of embodiments disclosed herein. Each of a two-piece hinged cap (**340, 342**) of a safety needle device **300** further comprises push features (**360, 362**) configured to abut a barrel surface of a syringe when a needle hub **310** is connected to a luer connector of the syringe and in an open state. The push features (**360, 362**) are disposed on the elongated bodies of the two-piece hinged cap (**340, 342**). In one or more embodiments, the push features (**360, 362**) are configured as tabs protruding from the elongated bodies of the two-piece hinged cap (**340, 342**). Each of the tabs having a neck (**370, 372**), a thumb press surface (**374, 376**) and a barrel engaging surface (**378, 380**). The barrel engaging surface (**378, 380**) is configured to abut the barrel surface of the syringe when a needle hub **310** is connected to the luer connector of the syringe while in the open state. The thumb press surface is (**374, 376**) is configured to aid in manipulating the two-piece hinged cap (**340, 342**). In one or more embodiments, thumb press surface is (**374, 376**) is configured to aid in pushing the two-piece hinged cap (**340, 342**) onto one another. In one or more embodiments, thumb press surface (**374, 376**) further includes a textured or hatched surface **373**. The textured or hatched surface **373** aids in manipulation of the two-piece hinged cap (**240, 242**). A distal edge (**382, 384**) of the thumb press surface is (**374, 376**) is configured to aid in manipulation of the two-piece hinged cap (**240, 242**). In one or more embodiments, the distal edge (**382, 384**) is configured to allow the practitioner to pull the two-piece hinged cap (**340, 342**) apart.

(71) As shown in FIGS. **12-14**, a third embodiment is described, the third embodiment incorporating the elements of embodiments disclosed herein. Each of a two-piece hinged cap (**340, 342**) of a safety needle device **300** further comprises push features (**360, 362**) configured to abut a barrel surface of a syringe when a needle hub **310** is connected to a luer connector of the syringe and in an open state. The push features (**360, 362**) are disposed on the elongated bodies of the two-piece hinged cap (**340, 342**). In one or more embodiments, the push features (**360, 362**) are configured as tabs protruding from the elongated bodies of the two-piece hinged cap (**340, 342**). Each of the tabs having a neck (**370, 372**), a thumb press surface (**374, 376**) and a barrel engaging surface (**378, 380**). The thumb press surface (**374, 376**) is disposed on the neck (**370, 372**), the thumb press surface (**374, 376**) being substantially parallel to the two-piece hinged cap (**340, 342**), and the barrel engaging surface (**378, 380**) extends at an angle from the thumb press surface (**374, 376**). The barrel engaging surface (**378, 380**) is configured to abut the barrel surface of the syringe when a needle hub **310** is connected to the luer connector of the syringe while in the open state.

(72) The thumb press surface is (**374, 376**) is configured to aid in manipulating the two-piece

hinged cap (340, 342). In one or more embodiments, thumb press surface is (374, 376) is configured to aid in pushing the two-piece hinged cap (340, 342) onto one another. In one or more embodiments, thumb press surface (374, 376) further includes a textured or hatched surface 373. The textured or hatched surface 373 aids in manipulation of the two-piece hinged cap (340, 342). A distal edge (382, 384) of the thumb press surface is (374, 376) is configured to aid in manipulation of the two-piece hinged cap (340, 342). In one or more embodiments, the distal edge (382, 384) is configured to allow the practitioner to pull the two-piece hinged cap (340, 342) apart.

(73) As shown in FIGS. 15-17, a fourth embodiment is described, the fourth embodiment incorporating the elements of embodiments disclosed herein. Each of a two-piece hinged cap (440, 442) of a safety needle device 400 further comprises push features (460, 462) configured to abut a barrel surface of a syringe when a needle hub 410 is connected to a luer connector of the syringe and in an open state. The push features (460, 462) are disposed on the elongated bodies of the two-piece hinged cap (440, 442). In one or more embodiments, the push features (460, 462) are configured as tabs protruding from the elongated bodies of the two-piece hinged cap (440, 442). Each of the tabs has a neck (470, 472), a thumb press surface (474, 476), and a barrel engaging surface (478, 480). The thumb press surface (474, 476) is disposed on the neck (470, 472), the thumb press surface (474, 476) being at a substantially right angle to the two-piece hinged cap (440, 442), and the barrel engaging surface (478, 480) extending at a right angle from the thumb press surface (474, 476). In one or more embodiments, the barrel engaging surface (478, 480) is substantially parallel to the two-piece hinged cap (440, 442). The barrel engaging surface (478, 480) is configured to abut the barrel surface of the syringe when a needle hub 410 is connected to the luer connector of the syringe while in the open state. The thumb press surface is (474, 476) is configured to aid in manipulating the two-piece hinged cap (440, 442).

(74) In one or more embodiments, thumb press surface is (474, 476) is configured to aid in pushing the two-piece hinged cap (440, 442) onto one another. In one or more embodiments, the thumb press surface is (474, 476) is configured to allow the practitioner to pull the two-piece hinged cap (440, 442) apart. In one or more embodiments, thumb press surface (474, 476) further includes a textured or hatched surface 473. The textured or hatched surface 473 aids in manipulation of the two-piece hinged cap (440, 242).

(75) As shown in FIGS. 18 and 19, a second embodiment of a safety needle device including a hard needle enclosure 900 comprises a removable hard needle cover 940 configured to cover needle cannula 912 and a distal portion 914 of a needle hub 910. The hard needle enclosure 900 further comprises a cap 970 configured to interdigitate with the needle cover 940 and cover a proximal portion 916 of the needle hub 910. The cap 970 and at least a portion of the needle cover 940 are covered by a removable sleeve 990 which holds the cap 970 and the needle cover 940 together.

(76) As shown in FIG. 20, the needle hub 910 comprises a cylindrical body having a distal portion 914 and a proximal portion 916. From the distal portion 914 extends a needle cannula 912 in a distal direction, the needle cannula 912 being disposed in a lumen extending the length of the cylindrical body. In one or more embodiments, the distal portion 914 further includes a plurality of longitudinal ribs 915. The proximal portion 916 has a substantially cylindrical shape. In one or more embodiments, the proximal portion 916 tapers in a distal direction. In one or more embodiments, the proximal portion 916 has a conical shape. The disclosure is not limited to the cylindrical shape shown in the exemplary embodiment. The proximal portion 916 further comprises a cavity in fluid communication with the lumen, the cavity being configured to receive a hub of a luer connector. In one or more embodiments, the cavity can be configured to facilitate a loose fit between the cavity and the hub of the luer connector, wherein the needle hub 910 is secured by an at least one thread 918 or set of tabs included on an outer surface of the proximal portion 916. The at least one thread 918 is sized and to have a thread pattern that will engage with a standard ISO-2 type of luer fitting. In further embodiments, the cavity can be configured in a Luer Slip fitting to facilitate an interference fit between the cavity and the hub of the luer connector. In

one or more embodiments, the interference fit can be configured to be sufficiently strong enough to not require a threaded connection or the at least one thread **918** in removably securing the cavity to the luer connector. In one or more embodiments, the at least one thread **918** can include an inclined thread pattern. In one or more embodiments, the at least one thread **918** can include a helical-shaped thread pattern. Such connectors are generally and commonly used as catheter and other fluid-tight protective connectors in medical applications. Further alternate embodiments are non-removably or removably assembled with a threaded connection, press-fit connection, adhesive connection or a combination thereof.

(77) As depicted in FIG. **21**, the removable hard needle cover **940** comprises an elongated body having a cavity **942** defined by an open proximal end **944** and a closed distal end **946**, the cavity **942** extending from the open proximal end **944** to the closed distal end **946**. The elongated body further comprises a proximal portion **950**, a medial portion **952** and a distal portion **945**. The proximal portion **950** has a cylindrical surface configured to mate with the cap **970**. The medial portion **952** is adjacent to the proximal portion **950** and is defined by a flange **956** extending from the elongated body of the removable hard needle cover **940**. The distal portion **945** is adjacent to the medial portion **952**, the distal portion comprising a plurality of grip members **948** extending from the closed distal end **946** along a surface of the elongated body.

(78) As shown in FIG. **22**, an inner surface **960** of the cavity **942** comprises a proximal inner surface **962**, a medial inner surface **964**, and a distal inner surface **968**. The proximal inner surface **962** includes a ribbed surface **963**. The medial inner surface **964** includes a plurality of protrusions **965** extending from the medial surface **964**. The plurality of protrusions **965** is configured to interdigitate with the plurality of longitudinal ribs **915** of the needle hub **910**, the each of the plurality of longitudinal ribs **915** nesting between two of the plurality of protrusions **965**, preventing rotational movement of the needle hub **910**. The distal portion **945** is adjacent to the medial surface **964** and is configured to house the needle cannula **912** of the needle hub **910**.

(79) As shown in FIGS. **23** and **24**, the needle hub **910** is partially disposed within the removable hard needle cover **940**. The proximal portion **916** of the needle hub **910** is partially disposed within the proximal inner surface **962** of the cavity **942** of the hard needle cover **940**, creating a removable interference fit between the proximal portion **916** of the needle hub **910** and the ribbed surface **963** of the proximal inner surface **962**. The plurality of protrusions **965** of the medial surface **964** interdigitate with the plurality of longitudinal ribs **915** of the distal portion **914** of the needle hub **910**. In this configuration, the needle hub **910** cannot rotate due to the plurality of protrusions **965** of the medial surface **964** interdigitating with the plurality of longitudinal ribs **915**, and the needle hub **910** cannot be unintentionally removed from the hard needle cover **940** due to the interference fit between the proximal portion **916** of the needle hub **910** and the ribbed surface **963** of the proximal inner surface **962**. The ribbed surface **963** of the proximal inner surface **962** is further configured to allow air to flow around the needle hub **910** thereby preventing a vacuum due to changes in the atmosphere, which would otherwise require a greater force to remove beyond breaking the interference fit.

(80) As shown in FIGS. **25** and **26**, the cap **970** comprises a substantially cylindrical body having an open distal end **972** and a closed proximal end **974**, the open distal end **972** and the closed proximal end **974** defining a cavity **976**. From an inner surface **978** of the cavity extends a plurality of protrusions **980**. The plurality of protrusions **980** extend longitudinally from the inner surface **978** and comprises a distal portion **982** which is adjacent to the open distal end **972** and a proximal portion **984** which is adjacent to the proximal end **974**. The distal portion **982** of the plurality of protrusions **980** tapers inwardly from the open distal end **972** to the proximal portion **984**, the taper configured to create an interference fit with the proximal portion **950** of the needle cover **940** upon insertion of the cap **970** over the proximal portion **950** of the needle cover **940**. The proximal portion **984** of the plurality of protrusions **980** extends further from the inner surface **978** of the cap **970** and is configured to abut the proximal portion **916** of the needle hub **910** upon insertion of the

cap **970** over the proximal portion **950** of the needle cover **940**.

(81) As shown in FIG. 27, the sleeve **990** can be formed into a cylindrical shape comprising an open distal end **992** and an open proximal end **994**. A plurality of perforations **996** are disposed radially around the cylindrical shape, the plurality of perforations **996** are configured to break upon separation of the needle cover **940** from the cap **970**. In one or more embodiments, the sleeve **990** further includes a tab **997** integrally formed with the sleeve **990**. In one or more embodiments, the tab **997** may include labeling or instructions. In one or more embodiments, the sleeve **990** is heat-sealed or induction sealed to the needle cover **940** and the cap **970**. In one or more embodiments, the sleeve **990** is configured as a tamper-evident seal.

(82) As shown in FIGS. 28 and 29, fully assembled, the sleeve **990** covers both the cap **970** and the proximal end **944** of the needle cover **940**. The open distal end **972** of the cap **970** abuts the flange **956** of the needle cover **940**. The open distal end **972** fully covers the open proximal end **944** of the needle cover **940**. The plurality of perforations **996** are near or directly over the open distal end **972** of the cap **970** and the open proximal end **944** of the needle cover **940**. As shown in FIG. 29, the proximal portion **984** of the plurality of protrusions **980** of the cap **970** limits the movement of the needle hub **910**.

(83) As shown in FIGS. 30 and 31, a third embodiment of a safety needle device including hard needle enclosure **1000** comprises a needle hub **1010**, a needle cover **1020**, an adapter **1030** and a cap **1040**, with FIG. 19 showing an assembled view and FIG. 20 showing an exploded view of the hard needle enclosure **1000**. FIGS. 30 and 31 are cross-sectional views of substantially cylindrical bodies. The needle cover **1020** covers a needle cannula **1012**, the needle cannula **1012** being disposed within a lumen of the needle hub **1010**. The needle cover **1020** has a tapered cylindrical outer surface **1022** which when connected to the adapter creates or forms an interference fit and a sterility barrier with a tapered aperture **1032** of the adapter **1030**.

(84) The adapter **1030** comprises a substantially cylindrical body having a proximal portion **1034**, a distal portion **1036** and an outside cylindrical surface **1038**. The proximal portion **1034** has a proximal cavity **1035** in communication with the tapered aperture **1032** of the distal portion **1036**. The tapered aperture **1032** is configured to create an interference fit with the tapered cylindrical surface **1022** of the needle cover **1020**. The cap **1040** has a substantially cylindrical shape with a distal opening **1042** defining a distal cavity **1044**. The cap **1040** is configured to interdigitate with the adapter **1030** by way of the distal cavity **1044** of the cap **1040** receiving the proximal portion **1034** of the adapter **1030**. The outside cylindrical surface **1038** creates or forms an interference fit and a sterility barrier with an inside surface **1046** of the distal cavity **1044** when the two parts are connected. In one or more embodiments, the outside cylindrical surface **1038** creates or forms a snap fit and a sterility barrier with the inside surface **1046** of the distal cavity **1044** when the two parts are connected. Since a sterility barrier is provided by the fit between the outside cylindrical surface **1038** and the inside surface **1046**, the need for a blister pack is eliminated, lowering the cost of packaging of needle devices compared to convention needle devices that require a blister pack to provide a sterility barrier. In one or more embodiments, the outside cylindrical surface **1038** is removably bonded with adhesive onto the inside surface **1046** of the distal cavity **1044**. In one or more embodiments, the outside cylindrical surface **1038** is threaded into the inside surface **1046** of the distal cavity **1044**. In one or more embodiments, the cap **1040** fits within the distal cavity **1044** of the adapter **1030**. In one or more embodiments, a sticker label can be disposed on the cap to allow for marking pertaining to the contents of the hard needle enclosure **1000**. In one or more embodiments, a label **1049** is placed on the cap **1040** distal end. In one or more embodiments, the label **1049** indicates that the hard needle enclosure **1000** has been opened or used. In one or more embodiments, the label **1049** includes words, numbers or symbols. In one or more embodiments, the label **1049** includes a biohazard symbol. In one or more embodiments, as shown in FIG. 30, a tamper-evident seal **1050** is incorporated where the cap **1040** and the adapter **1030** are joined to indicate when the cap **1040** and the adapter **1030** have been separated. In some embodiments, the

tamper-evident seal **1050** is a sticker or a peel off label or tear away label. The disclosure is not limited to the cylindrical shape of exemplary embodiments shown.

(85) The needle device including the hard needle enclosure **1000** is shipped and stored fully assembled. In operation, a practitioner first removes the cap **1040** from the adapter **1030** and then removes the needle hub **1010** and needle cover **1020** from the adapter **1030**. In one or more embodiments, the tapered aperture **1032** of the adapter **1030** is configured to interdigitate with conventional needles or commercially available needles.

(86) As shown in FIGS. **32** and **33**, a fourth embodiment of a hard needle enclosure **1100** comprises a needle hub **1110**, a needle cover **1120**, an adapter **1130** and a cap **1140**, with FIG. **21** showing an assembled view and FIG. **22** showing an exploded view of the hard needle enclosure **1100**. FIGS. **32** and **33** are cross-sectional views of substantially cylindrical bodies. The needle cover **1120** covers a needle cannula **1112**, the needle cannula **1112** being disposed within a lumen of the needle hub **1110**. The needle cover **1120** has a tapered cylindrical surface **1122** which creates or forms an interference fit and a sterility barrier with a tapered aperture **1132** of the adapter **1130** when the two parts are connected.

(87) The adapter **1130** comprises a substantially cylindrical body having a proximal portion **1134**, a distal portion **1136** and a hinge **1139** disposed on an outside cylindrical surface **1138** of the adapter **1130**. The proximal portion **1134** has a proximal cavity **1135** in communication with the tapered aperture **1132** of the distal portion **1136**. The tapered aperture **1132** is configured to create an interference fit with the tapered cylindrical surface **1122** of the needle cover **1120**. The cap **1140** has a substantially cylindrical shape with a distal opening **1142** defining a distal cavity **1144**. The cap **1140** is configured to interdigitate with the adapter **1130** by way of the distal cavity **1144** of the cap **1140** receiving the proximal portion **1134** of the adapter **1130**. The hinge **1139** has a distal connection to the outside cylindrical surface **1138** of the adapter **1130** and a proximal connection to an outside cylindrical surface **1150** of the cap **1140**.

(88) The outside cylindrical surface **1138** creates or forms an interference fit and a sterility barrier with an inside surface **1146** of the distal cavity **1144** when the two parts are connected. In one or more embodiments, the outside cylindrical surface **1138** creates or forms a snap fit and a sterility barrier with the inside surface **1146** of the distal cavity **1144** when the two parts are connected. In one or more embodiments, the outside cylindrical surface **1138** is removably bonded with adhesive onto the inside surface **1146** of the distal cavity **1144**. In one or more embodiments, the outside cylindrical surface **1138** is threaded into the inside surface **1146** of the distal cavity **1144**. In one or more embodiments, the cap **1140** fits within the distal cavity **1144** of the adapter **1130**. In one or more embodiments, a sticker label can be disposed on the cap to allow for marking pertaining to the contents of the hard needle enclosure **1100**. In one or more embodiments, a label **1149** is placed on the cap **1140** distal end. In one or more embodiments, the label **1149** indicates that the hard needle enclosure **1100** has been opened or used. In one or more embodiments, the label **1149** includes words, numbers or symbols. In one or more embodiments, the label **1149** includes a biohazard symbol. In one or more embodiments, a tamper-evident seal (not shown) similar to the tamper evident seal **1050** shown in FIG. **30** is incorporated where the cap **1140** and the adapter **1130** are joined to indicate when the cap **1140** and the adapter **1130** have been separated. In some embodiments, the tamper-evident seal is a sticker or a peel off label or tear away label. The disclosure is not limited to the cylindrical shape of exemplary embodiments shown.

(89) The needle device including the hard needle enclosure **1100** is shipped and stored fully assembled. In operation, a practitioner first removes the cap **1140** from the adapter **1130** and then removes the needle hub **1110** and needle cover **1120** from the adapter **1130**. Referring to FIGS. **33A** and **33B**, the hard needle enclosure is opened with one handed operation by applying a proximal force **F** against the outside cylindrical surface **1138** of the adapter **1130** opposite the hinge **1139**, as shown in FIG. **33B**. In one or more embodiments, the tapered aperture **1132** of the adapter **1130** is configured to interdigitate with conventional needles or commercially available needles. The

disclosure is not limited to the cylindrical shape of exemplary embodiments shown.

(90) As shown in FIG. 34, a fifth embodiment of a hard needle enclosure **1200** comprises a needle hub, a needle cover, an adapter **1230** and a cap **1240**. FIG. 34 is a cross-sectional view of substantially cylindrical bodies. The needle cover covers a needle cannula, the needle cannula being disposed within a lumen of the needle hub. The needle cover has a tapered cylindrical surface which creates or forms an interference fit and a sterility barrier with a tapered aperture of the adapter **1230** when the two parts are connected.

(91) The adapter **1230** comprises a substantially cylindrical body having a proximal portion **1234** having a cavity **1238** defined by a proximal opening **1239** and a distal portion **1236**. The cap **1240** has a substantially cylindrical shape with a distal opening **1232** defining a distal cavity **1244**. Fully assembled, the proximal opening **1239** and the distal opening **1232** abut each other. The proximal opening **1239** and the distal opening **1232** are removably bonded together with adhesive **1242**. In one or more embodiments, a label **1249** is placed on the cap **1240** distal end. In one or more embodiments, the label **1249** indicates that the hard needle enclosure **1200** has been opened or used. In one or more embodiments, the label **1249** includes words, numbers or symbols. In one or more embodiments, the label **1249** includes a biohazard symbol. In one or more embodiments, a tamper-evident seal (not shown) similar to the tamper evident seal **1050** shown in FIG. 30 is incorporated where the cap **1240** and the adapter **1230** are joined to indicate when the cap **1240** and the adapter **1230** have been separated. In some embodiments, the tamper-evident seal is a sticker or a peel off label or tear away label. The disclosure is not limited to the cylindrical shape of exemplary embodiments shown.

(92) As shown in FIG. 35, a sixth embodiment of a hard needle enclosure **1300** comprises a needle hub **1310**, a needle cover **1320**, an adapter **1330** and a cap **1340**, with FIG. 24 showing an exploded view of the hard needle enclosure **1300**. FIG. 35 is a cross-sectional view of substantially cylindrical bodies. The needle cover **1320** covers a needle cannula **1312**, the needle cannula **1312** being disposed within a lumen of the needle hub **1310**. The needle cover **1320** has a tapered cylindrical surface **1322** which creates or forms an interference fit and a sterility barrier with a tapered aperture **1332** of the adapter **1330** when the two parts are connected.

(93) The adapter **1330** comprises a substantially cylindrical body having a proximal portion **1334**, a distal portion **1336** and an outside surface **1338**. The proximal portion **1334** has a proximal cavity **1335** in communication with the tapered aperture **1332** of the distal portion **1336**. The tapered aperture **1332** is configured to create an interference fit with the tapered cylindrical surface **1322** of the needle cover **1320**. The cap **1340** has a substantially cylindrical shape with a distal opening **1342** defining a first cavity **1344**. In one or more embodiments, the first cavity **1344** forms a distal wall **1365** on which a label **1349** is placed. In one or more embodiments, the label **1349** indicates that the hard needle enclosure **1300** has been opened or used. In one or more embodiments, the label **1349** includes words, numbers or symbols. In one or more embodiments, the label **1349** includes a biohazard symbol.

(94) The cap **1340** is configured to interdigitate with the adapter **1330** by way of the first cavity **1344** of the cap **1340** receiving the proximal portion **1334** of the adapter **1330**. The outside surface **1338** creates or forms an interference fit and a sterility barrier with an inside surface **1346** of the first cavity **1344** when the two parts are connected. In one or more embodiments, the outside surface **1338** creates or forms a snap fit and a sterility barrier with the inside surface **1346** of the first cavity **1344** when the two parts are connected. In one or more embodiments, the outside surface **1338** is removably bonded with adhesive onto the inside surface **1346** of the first cavity **1344**. In one or more embodiments, the outside surface **1338** is threaded into the inside surface **1346** of the first cavity **1344**. In one or more embodiments, the cap **1340** fits within the first cavity **1344** of the adapter **1330**. In one or more embodiments, a sticker label can be disposed on the cap to allow for marking pertaining to the contents of the hard needle enclosure **1300**. In one or more embodiments, a label **1349** is placed on the cap **1340** distal end. In one or more embodiments, the

label **1349** indicates that the hard needle enclosure **1300** has been opened or used. In one or more embodiments, the label **1349** includes words, numbers or symbols. In one or more embodiments, the label **1349** includes a biohazard symbol. In one or more embodiments, a tamper-evident seal (not shown) similar to the tamper evident seal **1050** shown in FIG. **30** is incorporated where the cap **1340** and the adapter **1330** are joined to indicate when the cap **1340** and the adapter **1330** have been separated. In some embodiments, the tamper-evident seal is a sticker or a peel off label or tear away label.

(95) The cap further comprises a second cavity **1350** having an inside surface **1352**. The second cavity **1350** is configured to interdigitate with the adapter **1330**. The outside surface **1338** of the adapter **1330** creates or forms an interference fit and a sterility barrier with an inside surface **1352** of the first cavity **1344** when the two parts are connected. The disclosure is not limited to the cylindrical shape of exemplary embodiments shown.

(96) As shown in FIGS. **36-37**, in one or more embodiments, the adapter **1330** and the cap **1340** each comprise tabs which are either configured to removably or non-removably snap into each other. More specifically, the adapter **1330** includes an adapter tab or an adapter ledge **1339** having a locking surface **1339a** and a ramped surface **1339b**. In the embodiment shown, the adapter tab or the adapter ledge **1339** has a triangular shape, wherein the locking surface **1339a** on a right angle face of the adapter tab or the adapter ledge **1339**, which is located opposite to the ramped surface **1339b** of the adapter tab or the adapter ledge **1339**. As shown in FIGS. **36** and **37**, the right angle face is substantially perpendicular to the outside surface **1338** of the adapter **1330**. The adapter tab or the adapter ledge **1339** can be a singular continuous feature located on a proximal end of the adapter **1330**, or there could be a plurality (e.g. two, three, four or more) of discrete adapter tabs or adapter ledges **1339** disposed and spaced apart on the outside surface **1338** of the adapter **1330**.

(97) The cap **1340** comprises a holding tab or a bump **1354** disposed on the inside surface **1346** of the first cavity **1344**. The holding tab or the bump **1354** is configured to removably or releasably snap-fit with the adapter tab or the adapter ledge **1339** of the adapter **1330** upon insertion of the adapter **1330** into the first cavity **1344** of the cap **1340**. The holding tab or the bump comprises a first ramped surface **1354a** and a second ramped surface **1354b**, which slidably engage the locking surface **1339a** and the ramped surface **1339b** of the adapter tab or adapter ledge **1339**. The holding tab or the bump **1354** can be a singular continuous feature, or there could be a plurality (e.g. two, three, four or more) of discrete holding tabs or bumps disposed and spaced apart on the inside surface **1346** of the first cavity **1344**. The first cavity **1344** is facing in a distal direction when the hard needle enclosure packages a new needle cannula **1312**.

(98) The cap **1340** further comprises a locking tab or a cap ledge **1358** disposed on the inside surface **1352** of the second cavity **1350**. The locking tab or cap ledge **1358** of the second cavity **1350** has a triangular shape, wherein there is a locking surface **1358a** on a right angle face of the locking tab or the cap ledge **1358**, which is located opposite a sloped surface **1358b** of the locking tab or the cap ledge **1358** when the cap **1340** is mounted to a newly packaged needle cannula **1312**. As shown in FIGS. **36** and **37**, the right angle face is substantially perpendicular to the inside surface **1352** of the second cavity **1350**. The locking surface **1358a** of the first cavity **1344** is configured to create a non-removable or irreversible snap fit with the locking surface **1339a** of adapter tab or adapter ledge **1339** of the adapter **1330** upon insertion of the adapter **1330** into the second cavity **1350** of the cap **1340**. The locking tab or the cap ledge **1358** can be a singular continuous feature, or there could be a plurality (e.g. two, three, four or more) of discrete locking tabs or cap ledges disposed and spaced apart on the inside surface **1352** of the second cavity **1350**. In FIG. **37**, when the cap **1340** is in the locked position, the second cavity **1350** is facing in the distal direction and the first cavity **1344** is facing in the proximal direction.

(99) The embodiment shown and described with respect to FIGS. **36** and **37** is exemplary only. According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the adapter comprises an adapter locking feature, exemplified as the adapter tab or the adapter ledge **1339**, that interacts with a reversible or

releasable holding feature, exemplified as the holding tab or bump **1354** in the first cavity **1344** a locking tab or a cap ledge **1358** in the second cavity **1354** of the cap **1340**. However, according to one or more embodiments, the adapter can include an adapter holding and lock feature different from that shown in FIGS. **36** and **37** that interacts with a cap holding feature in the first cavity **1344** to provide a releasable or reversible attachment of the cap **1340** to the adapter **1330** and a cap locking feature in the second cavity **1350** of the cap **1340**. Thus, in one or more embodiments, the adapter and the first cavity are configured to be releasably connected and the adapter and the second cavity are configured to be connected in a locked configuration where they cap and the adapter cannot be released once they are locked.

(100) According to one or more embodiments, the first cavity **1344** comprises first indicia **1349a** inside and visible and/or tactilely discernable by a person, the first indicia **1349a** denoting that the hard-packaged safety needle device including the needle cannula **1312** has been used and that the device should be discarded. This first indicia **1349a** in some embodiments comprises a symbol, such as a biohazard symbol, words such as “used” or “do not use,” or other suitable visual or tactile indicia denoting a used device that should be discarded and not reused. It will be appreciated that when the cap **1340** is in the configuration shown in FIG. **36**, when the first indicia denoting that the hard-packaged safety needle device including the needle cannula **1312** has not been used, the first indicia **1349a** is not visible or tactilely discernable. The second cavity **1350** of the cap **1340** may further comprise second indicia **1349b** indicating that the hard-packaged safety needle device is ready for use. The second indicia **1349** in some embodiments comprises a symbol or words such as “ready for use” or information about the device such as needle gauge and length. The symbol in some embodiments may include a corporate logo.

(101) After the hard-packaged safety needle device has been used and the cap **1340** is reversed from the configuration shown in FIG. **36**, and slidably inserted onto the adapter **1330** so that the cap **1340** locks onto the adapter as shown in FIG. **37**, where the cap **1340** is in a position to be slidably engaged with the adapter **1330**. In this position, the first indicia **1349a** is now visible and/or tactilely discernable by a person. When the person sees the first indicia **1349a** or touches the first indicia **1349a**, they will be informed that the device has been used, and that the device should not be reused and discarded.

(102) While the present disclosure has been shown and described with reference to certain exemplary embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the embodiments of the present disclosure. Also, the inner and/or the outer housing of the disinfection cap can be single shot molded, or made by other suitable process. Furthermore, any of the features or elements of any exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the present disclosure as described above and illustrated in the drawing figures can be implemented individually or in any combination(s) as would be readily appreciated by skilled artisans without departing from the spirit and scope of the embodiments of the present disclosure.

(103) In addition, the included drawing figures further describe non-limiting examples of implementations of certain exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure and aid in the description of technology associated therewith. Any specific or relative dimensions or measurements provided in the drawings other as noted above are exemplary and not intended to limit the scope or content of the inventive design or methodology as understood by artisans skilled in the relevant field of invention.

(104) Reference throughout this specification to “one embodiment,” “certain embodiments,” “one or more embodiments” or “an embodiment” means that a particular feature, structure, material, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least one embodiment of the disclosure. Thus, the appearances of the phrases such as “in one or more embodiments,” “in certain embodiments,” “in one embodiment” or “in an embodiment” in various places throughout this specification are not necessarily referring to the same embodiment of the disclosure.

Furthermore, the particular features, structures, materials, or characteristics may be combined in any suitable manner in one or more embodiments.

(105) Although the disclosure herein has provided a description with reference to particular embodiments, it is to be understood that these embodiments are merely illustrative of the principles and applications of the present disclosure. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made to the method and apparatus of the present disclosure without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure. Thus, it is intended that the present disclosure include modifications and variations that are within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

Claims

1. A hard-packaged safety needle device comprising: a needle hub, configured to couple to a syringe, comprising a distal portion and a proximal portion, wherein a plurality of longitudinal ribs extend from the distal portion of the needle hub; a needle cannula extending from the distal portion of the needle hub; and a hard needle enclosure including a needle cover and a cap, the needle cover having an elongated body, a cavity defined by an open proximal end and a closed distal end, a proximal portion, a medial portion and a distal portion, the proximal portion having a surface configured to mate with the cap, the medial portion being defined by a flange extending from the elongated body, the elongated body further having an inner surface of the cavity having a proximal inner surface, a medial inner surface, and a distal inner surface, the proximal inner surface including a ribbed surface configured to create an interference fit with the proximal portion of the needle hub, the medial inner surface including a plurality of protrusions configured to interdigitate with the plurality of longitudinal ribs of the needle hub, wherein each of the plurality of longitudinal ribs nest between two of the plurality of protrusions preventing rotational movement of the needle hub, the cap including a body having an open distal end, a closed proximal end, and a cavity defined by the open distal end and the closed proximal end, the open distal end of the cap abutting the open proximal end of the needle cover, the proximal portion of the needle hub, the cap and at least a portion of the needle cover are covered by a removable sleeve which holds the cap and the needle cover together.
2. The hard-packaged safety needle device of claim 1, wherein a removable interference fit is created between the proximal portion of the needle hub and the ribbed surface of the proximal inner surface.
3. The hard-packaged safety needle device of claim 1, the cap further comprising a plurality of protrusions extending from an inner surface of the cavity of the cap, the plurality of protrusions extends longitudinally from the inner surface.
4. The hard-packaged safety needle device of claim 3, wherein the plurality of protrusions of the cap comprises a distal portion adjacent to the open distal end of the cap, the distal portion tapering inwardly from the open distal end the taper configured to create an interference fit with the proximal portion of the needle cover upon insertion of the cap over the proximal portion of the needle cover.
5. The hard-packaged safety needle device of claim 3, wherein a proximal portion of the plurality of protrusions of the cap extends further from the inner surface of the cap and is configured to abut the proximal portion of the needle hub upon insertion of the cap over the proximal portion of the needle cover.
6. The hard-packaged safety needle device of claim 1, wherein the removable sleeve comprises an open proximal end, an open distal end and a plurality of perforations disposed radially around the needle hub, the plurality of perforations configured to break upon separation of the needle cover from the cap.
7. The hard-packaged safety needle device of claim 6, the sleeve further comprising a tab integrally

formed with the sleeve.

8. The hard-packaged safety needle device of claim 7, wherein the tab includes labeling or instructions.

9. The hard-packaged safety needle device of claim 6, wherein the sleeve is heat-sealed to the needle cover the cap.

10. The hard-packaged safety needle device of claim 6, wherein the sleeve configured as a tamper-evident seal.

11. The hard-packaged safety needle device of claim 6, wherein the sleeve fully covers the cap and the proximal end of the needle cover.

12. The hard-packaged safety needle device of claim 6, wherein the plurality of perforations is near or directly over the open distal end of the cap and the open proximal end of the needle cover when the hard needle enclosure is assembled.
