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VENT ADAPTOR FOR A RESPIRATORY THERAPY SYSTEM

Abstract

A vent system for a respiratory therapy system may include: a vent housing comprising a base having a first orifice extending through the base to allow a vent flow of gas to be discharged to atmosphere to discharge gas exhaled by a patient from a pressurized volume, the vent flow of gas being continuous during respiratory therapy; a second orifice to allow gas to be discharged to atmosphere; a vent housing connector having an outlet opening; a heat and moisture exchanger (HME) having an HME housing and an HME material within the HME housing; and an elastically deformable membrane positioned adjacent to the base to apportion the vent flow of gas between the first orifice and the second orifice; the vent housing and the vent housing connector being configured to be connected to form a cavity, and the HME being positioned in the cavity.

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Background/Summary

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1 CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0002] This application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 18/312,745, filed May 5, 2023, now allowed, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 16/993,866, filed Aug. 14, 2020, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,679,222, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 15/760,403, filed Mar. 15, 2018, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,773,044, which is the U.S. national phase of International Application No. PCT/AU2016/050893, filed Sep. 23, 2016, which designated the U.S. and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/222,604, filed on Sep. 23, 2015, the entire contents of each of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

2 BACKGROUND OF THE TECHNOLOGY

2.1 Field of the Technology

[0003] The present technology relates to one or more of the detection, diagnosis, treatment, prevention and amelioration of respiratory-related disorders. The present technology also relates to medical devices or apparatus, and their use.

2.2 Description of the Related Art

2.2.1 Human Respiratory System and its Disorders

[0004] The respiratory system of the body facilitates gas exchange. The nose and mouth form the entrance to the airways of a patient.

[0005] The airways include a series of branching tubes, which become narrower, shorter and more numerous as they penetrate deeper into the lung. The prime function of the lung is gas exchange, allowing oxygen to move from the air into the venous blood and carbon dioxide to move out. The trachea divides into right and left main bronchi, which further divide eventually into terminal bronchioles. The bronchi make up the conducting airways, and do not take part in gas exchange. Further divisions of the airways lead to the respiratory bronchioles, and eventually to the alveoli. The alveolated region of the lung is where the gas exchange takes place, and is referred to as the respiratory zone. See “*Respiratory Physiology*”, by John B. West, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins,

9th edition published 2012.

[0006] A range of respiratory disorders exist. Certain disorders may be characterised by particular events, e.g. apneas, hypopneas, and hyperpneas.

[0007] Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA), a form of Sleep Disordered Breathing (SDB), is characterized by events including occlusion or obstruction of the upper air passage during sleep. It results from a combination of an abnormally small upper airway and the normal loss of muscle tone in the region of the tongue, soft palate and posterior oropharyngeal wall during sleep. The condition causes the affected patient to stop breathing for periods typically of 30 to 120 seconds in duration, sometimes 200 to 300 times per night. It often causes excessive daytime somnolence, and it may cause cardiovascular disease and brain damage. The syndrome is a common disorder, particularly in middle aged overweight males, although a person affected may have no awareness of the problem. See U.S. Pat. No. 4,944,310 (Sullivan).

[0008] Cheyne-Stokes Respiration (CSR) is another form of sleep disordered breathing. CSR is a disorder of a patient's respiratory controller in which there are rhythmic alternating periods of waxing and waning ventilation known as CSR cycles. CSR is characterised by repetitive de-oxygenation and re-oxygenation of the arterial blood. It is possible that CSR is harmful because of the repetitive hypoxia. In some patients CSR is associated with repetitive arousal from sleep, which causes severe sleep disruption, increased sympathetic activity, and increased afterload. See U.S. Pat. No. 6,532,959 (Berthon-Jones).

[0009] Respiratory Insufficiency is an umbrella term for respiratory disorders in which patients are unable to ventilate enough to balance the CO_2 in their blood if their metabolic activity rises much above rest. Respiratory insufficiency may encompass some or all of the following disorders.

[0010] Obesity Hyperventilation Syndrome (OHS) is defined as the combination of severe obesity and awake chronic hypercapnia, in the absence of other known causes for hypoventilation. Symptoms include dyspnea, morning headache and excessive daytime sleepiness.

[0011] Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) encompasses any of a group of lower airway diseases that have certain characteristics in common. These include increased resistance to air movement, extended expiratory phase of respiration, and loss of the normal elasticity of the lung. Examples of COPD are emphysema and chronic bronchitis. COPD is caused by chronic tobacco smoking (primary risk factor), occupational exposures, air pollution and genetic factors. Symptoms include: dyspnea on exertion, chronic cough and sputum production.

[0012] Neuromuscular Disease (NMD) is a broad term that encompasses many diseases and ailments that impair the functioning of the muscles either directly via intrinsic muscle pathology, or indirectly via nerve pathology. Some NMD patients are characterised by progressive muscular impairment leading to loss of ambulation, being wheelchair-bound, swallowing difficulties, respiratory muscle weakness and, eventually, death from respiratory failure. Neuromuscular disorders can be divided into rapidly progressive and slowly progressive: (i) Rapidly progressive disorders: Characterised by muscle impairment that worsens over months and results in death within a few years (e.g. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) in teenagers); (ii) Variable or slowly progressive disorders: Characterised by muscle impairment that worsens over years and only mildly reduces life expectancy (e.g. Limb girdle, Facioscapulohumeral and Myotonic muscular dystrophy). Symptoms of respiratory failure in NMD include: increasing generalised weakness, dysphagia, dyspnea on exertion and at rest, fatigue, sleepiness, morning headache, and difficulties with concentration and mood changes.

[0013] Chest wall disorders are a group of thoracic deformities that result in inefficient coupling between the respiratory muscles and the thoracic cage. The disorders are usually characterised by a restrictive defect and share the potential of long term hypercapnic respiratory failure. Scoliosis and/or kyphoscoliosis may cause severe respiratory failure. Symptoms of respiratory failure include: dyspnea on exertion, peripheral oedema, orthopnea, repeated chest infections, morning headaches, fatigue, poor sleep quality and loss of appetite.

[0014] A range of therapies have been used to treat or ameliorate such conditions. Furthermore, otherwise healthy individuals may take advantage of such therapies to prevent respiratory disorders from arising. However, these have a number of shortcomings.

2.2.2 Therapy

[0015] Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) therapy has been used to treat Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA). The mechanism of action is that continuous positive airway pressure acts as a pneumatic splint and may prevent upper airway occlusion, such as by pushing the soft palate and tongue forward and away from the posterior oropharyngeal wall. Treatment of OSA by CPAP therapy may be voluntary, and hence patients may elect not to comply with therapy if they find devices used to provide such therapy one or more of: uncomfortable, difficult to use, expensive and aesthetically unappealing.

[0016] Non-invasive ventilation (NIV) provides ventilatory support to a patient through the upper airways to assist the patient breathing and/or maintain adequate oxygen levels in the body by doing some or all of the work of breathing. The ventilatory support is provided via a non-invasive patient interface. NIV has been used to treat CSR and respiratory insufficiency, in forms such as OHS, COPD, MD and Chest Wall disorders. In some forms, the comfort and effectiveness of these therapies may be improved.

[0017] Invasive ventilation (IV) provides ventilatory support to patients that are no longer able to effectively breathe themselves and may be provided using a tracheostomy tube. In some forms, the comfort and effectiveness of these therapies may be improved.

2.2.3 Treatment Systems

[0018] These therapies may be provided by a treatment system or device. Such systems and devices may also be used to diagnose a condition without treating it.

[0019] A treatment system may comprise a Respiratory Pressure Therapy Device (RPT device), an air circuit, a humidifier, a patient interface, and data management.

[0020] Another form of treatment system is a mandibular repositioning device.

2.2.3.1 Patient Interface

[0021] A patient interface may be used to interface respiratory equipment to its wearer, for example by providing a flow of air to an entrance to the airways. The flow of air may be provided via a mask to the nose and/or mouth, a tube to the mouth or a tracheostomy tube to the trachea of a patient. Depending upon the therapy to be applied, the patient interface may form a seal, e.g., with a region of the patient's face, to facilitate the delivery of gas at a pressure at sufficient variance with ambient pressure to effect therapy, e.g., at a positive pressure of about 10 cmH₂O relative to ambient pressure. For other forms of therapy, such as the delivery of oxygen, the patient interface may not include a seal sufficient to facilitate delivery to the airways of a supply of gas at a positive pressure of about 10 cmH₂O.

[0022] Certain other mask systems may be functionally unsuitable for the present field. For example, purely ornamental masks may be unable to maintain a suitable pressure. Mask systems used underwater swimming or diving may be configured to guard against ingress of water from an external higher pressure, but not to maintain air internally at a higher pressure than ambient.

[0023] Certain masks may be clinically unfavourable for the present technology e.g. if they block airflow via the nose and only allow it via the mouth.

[0024] Certain masks may be uncomfortable or impractical for the present technology if they require a patient to insert a portion of a mask structure in their mouth create and maintain a seal via their lips.

[0025] Certain masks may be impractical for use while sleeping, e.g. for sleeping while lying on one's side in bed with a head on a pillow.

[0026] The design of a patient interface presents a number of challenges. The face has a complex three-dimensional shape. The size and shape of noses varies considerably between individuals. Since the head includes bone, cartilage and soft tissue, different regions of the face respond

differently to mechanical forces. The jaw or mandible may move relative to other bones of the skull. The whole head may move during the course of a period of respiratory therapy.

[0027] As a consequence of these challenges, some masks suffer from being one or more of obtrusive, aesthetically undesirable, costly, poorly fitting, difficult to use, and uncomfortable especially when worn for long periods of time or when a patient is unfamiliar with a system. For example, masks designed solely for aviators, masks designed as part of personal protection equipment (e.g. filter masks), SCUBA masks, or for the administration of anaesthetics may be tolerable for their original application, but nevertheless such masks may be undesirably uncomfortable to be worn for extended periods of time, e.g., several hours. This discomfort may lead to a reduction in patient compliance with therapy. This is even more so if the mask is to be worn during sleep.

[0028] CPAP therapy is highly effective to treat certain respiratory disorders, provided patients comply with therapy. If a mask is uncomfortable, or difficult to use a patient may not comply with therapy. Since it is often recommended that a patient regularly wash their mask, if a mask is difficult to clean (e.g., difficult to assemble or disassemble), patients may not clean their mask and this may impact on patient compliance.

[0029] While a mask for other applications (e.g. aviators) may not be suitable for use in treating sleep disordered breathing, a mask designed for use in treating sleep disordered breathing may be suitable for other applications.

[0030] For these reasons, patient interfaces for delivery of CPAP during sleep form a distinct field.

2.2.3.1.1 Seal-Forming Portion

[0031] Patient interfaces may include a seal-forming portion. Since it is in direct contact with the patient's face, the shape and configuration of the seal-forming portion can have a direct impact the effectiveness and comfort of the patient interface.

[0032] A patient interface may be partly characterised according to the design intent of where the seal-forming portion is to engage with the face in use. In one form of patient interface, a seal-forming portion may comprise two sub-portions to engage with respective left and right nares. In one form of patient interface, a seal-forming portion may comprise a single element that surrounds both nares in use. Such single element may be designed to for example overlay an upper lip region and a nasal bridge region of a face. In one form of patient interface a seal-forming portion may comprise an element that surrounds a mouth region in use, e.g. by forming a seal on a lower lip region of a face. In one form of patient interface, a seal-forming portion may comprise a single element that surrounds both nares and a mouth region in use. These different types of patient interfaces may be known by a variety of names by their manufacturer including nasal masks, full-face masks, nasal pillows, nasal puffs and oro-nasal masks.

[0033] A seal-forming portion that may be effective in one region of a patient's face may be inappropriate in another region, e.g. because of the different shape, structure, variability and sensitivity regions of the patient's face. For example, a seal on swimming goggles that overlays a patient's forehead may not be appropriate to use on a patient's nose.

[0034] Certain seal-forming portions may be designed for mass manufacture such that one design fit and be comfortable and effective for a wide range of different face shapes and sizes. To the extent to which there is a mismatch between the shape of the patient's face, and the seal-forming portion of the mass-manufactured patient interface, one or both must adapt in order for a seal to form.

[0035] One type of seal-forming portion extends around the periphery of the patient interface, and is intended to seal against the patient's face when force is applied to the patient interface with the seal-forming portion in confronting engagement with the patient's face. The seal-forming portion may include an air or fluid filled cushion, or a moulded or formed surface of a resilient seal element made of an elastomer such as a rubber. With this type of seal-forming portion, if the fit is not adequate, there will be gaps between the seal-forming portion and the face, and additional force

will be required to force the patient interface against the face in order to achieve a seal.

[0036] Another type of seal-forming portion incorporates a flap seal of thin material positioned about the periphery of the mask so as to provide a self-sealing action against the face of the patient when positive pressure is applied within the mask. Like the previous style of seal forming portion, if the match between the face and the mask is not good, additional force may be required to achieve a seal, or the mask may leak. Furthermore, if the shape of the seal-forming portion does not match that of the patient, it may crease or buckle in use, giving rise to leaks.

[0037] Another type of seal-forming portion may comprise a friction-fit element, e.g. for insertion into a naris, however some patients find these uncomfortable.

[0038] Another form of seal-forming portion may use adhesive to achieve a seal. Some patients may find it inconvenient to constantly apply and remove an adhesive to their face.

[0039] A range of patient interface seal-forming portion technologies are disclosed in the following patent applications, assigned to ResMed Limited: WO 1998/004,310; WO 2006/074,513; WO 2010/135,785.

[0040] One form of nasal pillow is found in the Adam Circuit manufactured by Puritan Bennett. Another nasal pillow, or nasal puff is the subject of U.S. Pat. No. 4,782,832 (Trimble et al.), assigned to Puritan-Bennett Corporation.

[0041] ResMed Limited has manufactured the following products that incorporate nasal pillows: SWIFT™ nasal pillows mask, SWIFT™ II nasal pillows mask, SWIFT™ LT nasal pillows mask, SWIFT™ FX nasal pillows mask and MIRAGE LIBERTY™ full-face mask. The following patent applications, assigned to ResMed Limited, describe examples of nasal pillows masks: International Patent Application WO2004/073,778 (describing amongst other things aspects of the ResMed Limited SWIFT™ nasal pillows), US Patent Application 2009/0044808 (describing amongst other things aspects of the ResMed Limited SWIFT™ LT nasal pillows); International Patent Applications WO 2005/063,328 and WO 2006/130,903 (describing amongst other things aspects of the ResMed Limited MIRAGE LIBERTY™ full-face mask); International Patent Application WO 2009/052,560 (describing amongst other things aspects of the ResMed Limited SWIFT™ FX nasal pillows).

2.2.3.1.2 Positioning and Stabilising

[0042] A seal-forming portion of a patient interface used for positive air pressure therapy is subject to the corresponding force of the air pressure to disrupt a seal. Thus a variety of techniques have been used to position the seal-forming portion, and to maintain it in sealing relation with the appropriate portion of the face.

[0043] One technique is the use of adhesives. See for example US Patent Application Publication No. US 2010/0000534. However, the use of adhesives may be uncomfortable for some.

[0044] Another technique is the use of one or more straps and/or stabilising harnesses. Many such harnesses suffer from being one or more of ill-fitting, bulky, uncomfortable and awkward to use.

2.2.3.1.3 Vent Technologies

[0045] Some forms of patient interface systems may include a vent to allow the washout of exhaled carbon dioxide. The vent may allow a flow of gas from an interior space of the patient interface, e.g., the plenum chamber, to an exterior of the patient interface, e.g., to ambient. The vent may comprise an orifice and gas may flow through the orifice in use of the mask. Many such vents are noisy. Others may become blocked in use and thus provide insufficient washout. Some vents may be disruptive of the sleep of a bed partner **1100** of the patient **1000**, e.g. through noise or focused airflow.

[0046] ResMed Limited has developed a number of improved mask vent technologies. See International Patent Application Publication No. WO 1998/034,665; International Patent Application Publication No. WO 2000/078,381; U.S. Pat. No. 6,581,594; US Patent Application Publication No. US 2009/0050156; US Patent Application Publication No. 2009/0044808.

TABLE-US-00001 Table of noise of prior masks (ISO 17510-2:2007, 10 cmH.sub.2O pressure at 1

m) A-weighted A-weighted sound power sound pressure level dB (A) dB (A) Year Mask name
Mask type (uncertainty) (uncertainty) (approx.) Glue-on (*) nasal 50.9 42.9 1981 ResCare nasal
31.5 23.5 1993 standard (*) ResMed nasal 29.5 21.5 1998 Mirage™ (*) ResMed nasal 36 (3) 28
(3) 2000 UltraMirage™ ResMed nasal 32 (3) 24 (3) 2002 Mirage Activa™ ResMed nasal 30 (3)
22 (3) 2008 Mirage Micro™ ResMed nasal 29 (3) 22 (3) 2008 Mirage™ SoftGel ResMed nasal
26 (3) 18 (3) 2010 Mirage™ FX ResMed nasal pillows 37 29 2004 Mirage Swift™ (*)
ResMed nasal pillows 28 (3) 20 (3) 2005 Mirage Swift™ II ResMed nasal pillows 25 (3) 17 (3)
2008 Mirage Swift™ LT ResMed nasal pillows 21 (3) 13 (3) 2014 AirFit P10 A-weighted sound
pressure Object dB (A) Notes Vacuum cleaner: Nilfisk 68 ISO 3744 at Walter Broadly Litter Hog:
1 m distance B+ Grade Conversational speech 60 1 m distance Average home 50 Quiet library 40
Quiet bedroom at night 30 Background in TV studio 20 (* one specimen only, measured using test
method specified in ISO 3744 in CPAP mode at 10 cmH.sub.2O) Sound pressure values of a
variety of objects are listed below

2.2.3.2 Respiratory Pressure Therapy (RPT) Device

[0047] Air pressure generators are known in a range of applications, e.g. industrial-scale ventilation systems. However, air pressure generators for medical applications have particular requirements not fulfilled by more generalised air pressure generators, such as the reliability, size and weight requirements of medical devices. In addition, even devices designed for medical treatment may suffer from shortcomings, pertaining to one or more of: comfort, noise, ease of use, efficacy, size, weight, manufacturability, cost, and reliability.

[0048] An example of the special requirements of certain RPT devices is acoustic noise.

TABLE-US-00002 Table of noise output levels of prior RPT devices (one specimen only, measured using test method specified in ISO 3744 in CPAP mode at 10 cmH.sub.2O). A-weighted sound Year RPT Device name power level dB(A) (approx.) C-Series Tango™ 31.9 2007 C-Series Tango™ with Humidifier 33.1 2007 S8 Escape™ II 30.5 2005 S8 Escape™ II with H4i™ Humidifier 31.1 2005 S9 AutoSet™ 26.5 2010 S9 AutoSet™ with H5i Humidifier 28.6 2010

[0049] One known RPT device used for treating sleep disordered breathing is the S9 Sleep Therapy System, manufactured by ResMed Limited. Another example of an RPT device is a ventilator.

Ventilators such as the ResMed Stellar™ Series of Adult and Paediatric Ventilators may provide support for invasive and non-invasive non-dependent ventilation for a range of patients for treating a number of conditions such as but not limited to NMD, OHS and COPD.

[0050] The ResMed Elisée™ 150 ventilator and ResMed VS III™ ventilator may provide support for invasive and non-invasive dependent ventilation suitable for adult or paediatric patients for treating a number of conditions. These ventilators provide volumetric and barometric ventilation modes with a single or double limb circuit. RPT devices typically comprise a pressure generator, such as a motor-driven blower or a compressed gas reservoir, and are configured to supply a flow of air to the airway of a patient. In some cases, the flow of air may be supplied to the airway of the patient at positive pressure. The outlet of the RPT device is connected via an air circuit to a patient interface such as those described above.

[0051] The designer of a device may be presented with an infinite number of choices to make. Design criteria often conflict, meaning that certain design choices are far from routine or inevitable. Furthermore, the comfort and efficacy of certain aspects may be highly sensitive to small, subtle changes in one or more parameters.

2.2.3.3 Humidifier

[0052] Delivery of a flow of air without humidification may cause drying of airways. The use of a humidifier with an RPT device and the patient interface produces humidified gas that minimizes drying of the nasal mucosa and increases patient airway comfort. In addition in cooler climates, warm air applied generally to the face area in and about the patient interface is more comfortable than cold air. A range of artificial humidification devices and systems are known, however they may not fulfil the specialised requirements of a medical humidifier.

[0053] Medical humidifiers are used to increase humidity and/or temperature of the flow of air in relation to ambient air when required, typically where the patient may be asleep or resting (e.g. at a hospital). A medical humidifier for bedside placement may be small. A medical humidifier may be configured to only humidify and/or heat the flow of air delivered to the patient without humidifying and/or heating the patient's surroundings. Room-based systems (e.g. a sauna, an air conditioner, or an evaporative cooler), for example, may also humidify air that is breathed in by the patient, however those systems would also humidify and/or heat the entire room, which may cause discomfort to the occupants. Furthermore medical humidifiers may have more stringent safety constraints than industrial humidifiers

[0054] While a number of medical humidifiers are known, they can suffer from one or more shortcomings. Some medical humidifiers may provide inadequate humidification, some are difficult or inconvenient to use by patients.

2.2.3.4 Data Management

[0055] There may be clinical reasons to obtain data to determine whether the patient prescribed with respiratory therapy has been “compliant”, e.g. that the patient has used their RPT device according to certain a “compliance rule”. One example of a compliance rule for CPAP therapy is that a patient, in order to be deemed compliant, is required to use the RPT device for at least four hours a night for at least 21 of 30 consecutive days. In order to determine a patient's compliance, a provider of the RPT device, such as a health care provider, may manually obtain data describing the patient's therapy using the RPT device, calculate the usage over a predetermined time period, and compare with the compliance rule. Once the health care provider has determined that the patient has used their RPT device according to the compliance rule, the health care provider may notify a third party that the patient is compliant.

[0056] There may be other aspects of a patient's therapy that would benefit from communication of therapy data to a third party or external system.

[0057] Existing processes to communicate and manage such data can be one or more of costly, time-consuming, and error-prone.

2.2.3.5 Mandibular Repositioning

[0058] A mandibular repositioning device (MRD) or mandibular advancement device (MAD) is one of the treatment options for sleep apnea and snoring. It is an adjustable oral appliance available from a dentist or other supplier that holds the lower jaw (mandible) in a forward position during sleep. The MRD is a removable device that a patient inserts into their mouth prior to going to sleep and removes following sleep. Thus, the MRD is not designed to be worn all of the time. The MRD may be custom made or produced in a standard form and includes a bite impression portion designed to allow fitting to a patient's teeth. This mechanical protrusion of the lower jaw expands the space behind the tongue, puts tension on the pharyngeal walls to reduce collapse of the airway and diminishes palate vibration.

[0059] In certain examples a mandibular advancement device may comprise an upper splint that is intended to engage with or fit over teeth on the upper jaw or maxilla and a lower splint that is intended to engage with or fit over teeth on the upper jaw or mandible. The upper and lower splints are connected together laterally via a pair of connecting rods. The pair of connecting rods are fixed symmetrically on the upper splint and on the lower splint.

[0060] In such a design the length of the connecting rods is selected such that when the MRD is placed in a patient's mouth the mandible is held in an advanced position. The length of the connecting rods may be adjusted to change the level of protrusion of the mandible. A dentist may determine a level of protrusion for the mandible that will determine the length of the connecting rods.

[0061] Some MRDs are structured to push the mandible forward relative to the maxilla while other MADs, such as the ResMed Narval CC™ MRD are designed to retain the mandible in a forward position. This device also reduces or minimises dental and temporo-mandibular joint (TMJ) side

effects. Thus, it is configured to minimise or prevent any movement of one or more of the teeth.

2.2.4 Diagnosis and Monitoring Systems

[0062] Clinical experts may be able to diagnose or monitor patients adequately based on person observation. However, there are circumstances where a clinical expert may not be available, or a clinical expert may not be affordable. In some circumstances different clinical experts may disagree on a patient's condition. A given clinical expert may apply a different standard at different times. With a busy clinical practice, a clinician may have difficulty keeping up with evolving patient management guidelines.

[0063] Polysomnography (PSG) is a conventional system for diagnosis and prognosis of cardio-pulmonary disorders, and typically involves expert clinical staff to both apply and/or interpret. PSG typically involves the placement of 15 to 20 contact sensors on a person in order to record various bodily signals such as electroencephalography (EEG), electrocardiogram, electrooculography (EOG), electromyography (EMG), etc. However, while they may be suitable for their usual application in a clinical setting, such systems are complicated and potentially expensive, and/or may be uncomfortable or impractical for a patient at home trying to sleep.

3 BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE TECHNOLOGY

[0064] The present technology is directed towards providing medical devices used in the diagnosis, amelioration, treatment, or prevention of respiratory disorders having one or more of improved comfort, cost, efficacy, ease of use and manufacturability.

[0065] A first aspect of the present technology relates to apparatus used in the diagnosis, amelioration, treatment or prevention of a respiratory disorder.

[0066] Another aspect of the present technology relates to methods used in the diagnosis, amelioration, treatment or prevention of a respiratory disorder.

[0067] An aspect of certain forms of the present technology is to provide methods and/or apparatus that improve the compliance of patients with respiratory therapy.

[0068] A first form of the present technology includes a connector set with a compliant face seal between a first end and a second end of the connector set and with a retention mechanism that couples the first end and the second end together.

[0069] A second form of the present technology comprises a fluid connector for delivery of breathing gas to a patient from a respiratory pressure therapy device, the fluid connector comprising a first end with a first opening for a fluid flow, a seal portion extending around a periphery of the first opening, and a latching portion, a second end with a second opening for the fluid flow, a sealing surface extending around a periphery of the second opening and configured to engage the seal portion to form a face seal, and a complementary latching portion configured to engage with the latching portion, wherein the face seal allows the breathing gas to travel between the first opening and the second opening, and the engagement between the latching portion and the complementary latching portion secures the first end with the second end.

[0070] A third form of the present technology comprises a system for providing respiratory therapy to a patient, the system comprising a respiratory pressure therapy device; an air circuit; a patient interface connected to the air circuit and a means for preventing the respiratory pressure therapy device from being connected to the air circuit with an industry standard connection.

[0071] A fourth form of the present technology comprises a method of providing a fluid connection to deliver breathing gas to a patient from a respiratory pressure therapy device, the method comprising engaging a latch between a first end and a second end of the fluid connection; and engaging a face seal around a first opening in the first end and around a second opening in the second end, wherein one of the first end and the second end corresponds to the respiratory pressure therapy device.

[0072] A fifth form of the present technology comprises a first half of a fluid connector system for delivery of breathing gas to a patient from a respiratory pressure therapy device, the first half comprising connector portion with a first opening for a fluid flow, a seal portion extending around

a periphery of the first opening, and a latching portion, wherein the seal portion is configured to seal against a sealing surface extending around a periphery of a second opening to form a face seal with a second half of the fluid connector system, and the latching portion is configured to latch with another latching portion of the second half of the fluid connector system.

[0073] A sixth form of the present technology comprises a first half of a fluid connector system for delivery of breathing gas to a patient from a respiratory pressure therapy device, the first half comprising a connector portion with a first opening for a fluid flow, a sealing surface around a periphery of the first opening, and a latching portion, wherein the sealing surface is configured to receive a seal portion extending around a periphery of a second opening to form a face seal with a second half of the fluid connector system, and the latching portion is configured to latch with another latching portion of the second half of the fluid connector system.

[0074] A seventh form of the present technology comprises a fluid connector for delivery of breathing gas to a patient from a respiratory pressure therapy device, the fluid connector comprising a first end with a first interior portion for a fluid flow and a first retaining portion, and a second end with a second interior portion for the fluid flow and a complementary retaining portion configured to engage with the retaining portion, wherein the first interior portion and the second interior portion have a first shape perpendicular to a flow direction, the retaining portion and the complementary retaining portion have a second shape perpendicular to the flow direction, and the first shape and the second shape are different.

[0075] An eighth form of the present technology comprises a system for providing respiratory therapy to a patient, the system comprising a respiratory pressure therapy device; an air circuit; a patient interface connected to the air circuit, the patient interface being specially adapted to operate with the respiratory pressure therapy device; and a means for ensuring that the patient interface that is specially adapted to operate with the respiratory pressure therapy device is connected to the respiratory pressure therapy device.

[0076] In examples of at least one of the first through eighth forms of the present technology, (a) the first end is connected to a respiratory pressure therapy device including a blower and the second end is connected to a fluid conduit; (b) the respiratory pressure therapy device is configured to provide treatment pressure for the sleep related breathing disorder; (c) the sealing surface is flat; (d) the sealing surface is substantially perpendicular to a direction of the fluid flow from the first end to the second end; (e) the sealing surface is beveled; (d) the sealing surface extends circumferentially around the second opening; (e) the sealing surface is formed on a flange that extends radially from a tube defining the second opening; (f) the flange extends substantially perpendicularly from the tube; (g) the tube extends beyond the flange in a direction towards the seal portion; (h) the tube extends at least partially through the seal portion when the complementary latching portion is engaged with the latching portion; (i) the seal portion is compliant in a direction of engagement between the first end and the second end; (j) the seal portion includes a frustoconical portion; (k) the frustoconical portion contacts the sealing surface to form the face seal; (l) the seal portion includes a partial spherical surface; (m) the partial spherical surface contacts the sealing surface to form the face seal; (n) the seal portion includes a bellows-shaped or partial bellows-shaped portion; (o) the bellows-shaped or partial bellows-shaped portion contacts the sealing surface to form the face seal; (p) when the first end and the second end are connected the seal portion is configured to engage the sealing surface before the latching portion and the complementary latching portion engage; (q) the seal portion is compliant in a direction radial to an axis defined by a direction of engagement between the first end and the second end; (r) the seal portion is configured to expand and engage the sealing surface due to internal pressurization of the first end when a gap exists between the seal portion and the sealing surface in an unpressurized state; (s) contact between the seal portion and the sealing surface causes the seal portion to compress against the sealing and against an airflow direction that is from the first opening to the second opening; (t) compression of the seal portion does not cause significant compressive forces;

(u) a force required to compress the seal portion is less than a force required to engage the latching portion with the complementary latching portion; (v) the force required to compress the seal portion is less than half of the force required to engage the latching portion with the complementary latching portion; (w) the force required to compress the seal portion is less than one tenth of the force required to engage the latching portion with the complementary latching portion; (x) at least one of the seal portion and the sealing surface includes sufficient contact area between the seal portion and the sealing surface to form a seal when respective centers of the seal portion and the sealing surface are not aligned with one another; (y) the second end comprises an inner portion and an outer portion and the inner portion is rotatably coupled to the outer portion; (z) the inner portion comprises the sealing surface; (aa) the inner portion is rigidly connected to a fluid conduit; (bb) the outer portion comprises the complementary latching portion; (cc) the complementary latching portion comprises a cantilevered portion with a protrusion that is configured to engage the latching portion; (dd) the cantilevered portion is configured to be depressed to engage or disengage the complementary latching portion from the latching portion and allow engagement or disengagement between the first end and the second end; (ee) the first end comprises a travel limit to constrain the second end from moving in a direction of engagement between the first end and the second end; (ff) the travel limit is a flange around the first opening and the second end comprises a stop surface configured to contact the flange; (gg) the latching portion constrains the second end from moving in a direction opposite to the direction of engagement, and the travel limit and latching portion together define a movement distance of the second end when the first end and the second end are engaged; (hh) the seal portion is configured to seal against the sealing surface throughout the movement distance, the movement distance being a non-zero distance; (ii) the seal portion is configured to form a seal with the sealing surface with a worst case manufacturing tolerance and after a predetermined amount of wear and/or creep in the fluid connector; (jj) the fluid connector is configured to provide negligible pressure drop when air is flowing through the fluid connector throughout a patient's breathing cycle and at pressures between 4 cm H₂O to 40 cm H₂O; (kk) the first end is a female connection and the second end is a male connection; (ll) the female connection and the male connection have profiles that are non-circular; (mm) the first end includes a port in fluid communication with an interior of the seal portion and separated from the first opening and the second opening; (nn) the first opening and the second opening are interior portions of tubes; (oo) the first end is connected to a respiratory pressure therapy device including a blower and the second end is connected to an adapter for a fluid conduit connector; (pp) the fluid connector further comprises an industry standard fluid connection, wherein the industry standard fluid connection is in fluid communication with the first opening and on an end opposite the seal portion; (qq) the fluid connector further comprises an industry standard fluid connection, wherein the industry standard fluid connection is in fluid communication with the first opening and on an end opposite the sealing surface; (rr) the first shape is a circle and the second shape includes properties of a circle and a square; and/or (ss) one of the first interior portion and the second interior portion includes a first male portion and the other of the first interior portion and the second interior portion includes a first female portion, the first male portion and the first female portion including the first shape, and one of the retaining portion and the complementary retaining portion includes a second male portion and the other of the retaining portion and the complementary retaining portion includes a second female portion, the second male portion and the second female portion including the second shape.

[0077] An aspect of one form of the present technology is a portable RPT device, including a fluid connector, that may be carried by a person, e.g., around the home of the person.

[0078] Another aspect of the present technology is directed to a vent assembly for a respiratory pressure therapy (RPT) system. The vent assembly comprising: a vent housing defining a central orifice for the flow of pressurized gas to pass through the vent assembly from the delivery conduit to the patient interface, the vent housing having an annular surface around the central orifice, and

the annular surface having a plurality of holes to discharge pressurized gas to atmosphere; and a membrane positioned adjacent to the annular surface, wherein the membrane is movable such that the membrane is urged against the annular surface of the vent housing as the pressure of the pressurized gas within the vent assembly increases.

[0079] Another aspect of the present technology is directed to an RPT system, comprising: the vent assembly described in the preceding paragraph; an RPT device configured to generate a flow of pressurized gas in the range of 4-20 cm H₂O; a patient interface configured to deliver the flow of pressurized gas to the patient's airways, the patient interface being non-vented; and a delivery conduit configured to deliver the flow of pressurized gas from the RPT device to the patient interface.

[0080] In examples of the vent assembly and the RPT system described in the two preceding paragraphs, (a) the plurality of holes may comprise a first group of holes and a second group of holes, the first group of holes being proximal to the central orifice relative to the second group of holes, (b) the membrane may be shaped and dimensioned such that the membrane does not cover the first group of holes, (c) the membrane may be structured to cover more of the second group of holes as the pressure of the pressurized gas within the vent assembly increases, (d) the first group of holes may be positioned upstream of the second group of holes relative to the flow of pressurized gas, (e) the vent assembly may further comprise a retaining structure to retain the membrane in a position adjacent to the annular surface of the vent housing, (f) the membrane may further comprise an elastic material, (g) the membrane may be ring-shaped, (h) the membrane may not be joined to the vent housing, (i) the membrane may be shaped and dimensioned such that an outer edge of the membrane is adjacent to an inner periphery of the vent housing, and/or (j) each of the plurality of holes may have a shape that converges from an internal surface of the vent housing to an external surface of the vent housing.

[0081] Another aspect of the present technology is directed to a vent adaptor for a for a respiratory pressure therapy (RPT) system. The vent adaptor comprises: a vent assembly comprising: a vent housing defining a central orifice for the flow of pressurized gas to pass through the vent assembly from the delivery conduit to the patient interface, the vent housing having an annular surface around the central orifice, and the annular surface having a plurality of holes to discharge pressurized gas to atmosphere; and a membrane positioned adjacent to the annular surface; and a diffusing member.

[0082] Another aspect of the present technology is directed to an RPT system. The RPT system comprising: the vent adaptor described in the preceding paragraph; an RPT device configured to generate a flow of pressurized gas in the range of 4-20 cm H₂O; a patient interface configured to deliver the flow of pressurized gas to the patient's airways, the patient interface being non-vented; and a delivery conduit configured to deliver the flow of pressurized gas from the RPT device to the patient interface.

[0083] In examples of the vent adaptor and the RPT system described in the two preceding paragraphs, (a) the membrane may be movable such that the membrane is urged against the annular surface of the vent housing as the pressure of the pressurized gas within the vent assembly increases, (b) the plurality of holes may comprise a first group of holes and a second group of holes, the first group of holes being proximal to the central orifice relative to the second group of holes, (c) the membrane may be shaped and dimensioned such that the membrane does not cover the first group of holes, (d) the membrane may be structured to cover more of the second group of holes as the pressure of the pressurized gas within the vent assembly increases, (e) the first group of holes may be positioned upstream of the second group of holes relative to the flow of pressurized gas, (f) the vent adaptor may further comprise a retaining structure to retain the membrane in a position adjacent to the annular surface of the vent housing, (g) the membrane may further comprise an elastic material, (h) the membrane may be ring-shaped, (i) the membrane may not be joined to the vent housing, (j) the membrane may be shaped and dimensioned such that an outer

edge of the membrane is adjacent to an inner periphery of the vent housing, (k) each of the plurality of holes may have a shape that converges from an internal surface of the vent housing to an external surface of the vent housing, (l) the vent adaptor may comprise a heat and moisture exchanger (HME) that may be positioned downstream of the plurality of holes relative to the flow of pressurized gas, (m) the diffusing member may be positioned on the exterior of the vent housing to at least partly cover the plurality of holes, (n) the vent adaptor may further comprise a blocking member having an air-impermeable material, the blocking member preventing gas exiting from the plurality of holes from flowing through the diffusing member to atmosphere in a linear path, (o) the diffusing member and the blocking member may be configured to direct the gas exiting from the plurality of holes outward from the diffusing member in an orientation different than the plurality of holes, (p) the diffusing member may provide a flow path parallel to a surface of the blocking member that is in contact with the diffusing member, (q) the diffusing member may be a porous material, (r) the diffusing member may be an open cell foam, and/or(s) the diffusing member may be a fibrous material.

[0084] An aspect of the present technology is directed to a vent system for use with a patient interface during respiratory therapy of a patient with a therapy flow of gas pressurized above ambient pressure, the vent system providing a vent flow of gas to discharge gas exhaled by the patient from a pressurized volume, the vent flow being continuous during the respiratory therapy. The vent system comprises a vent housing comprising a base having an inlet for the therapy flow of gas extending through the base and at least one first orifice extending through the base to allow gas to be discharged to atmosphere from the pressurized volume; at least one second orifice to allow gas to be discharged to atmosphere from the pressurized volume; and a membrane positioned adjacent to the base.

[0085] An aspect of the present technology is directed to a vent system for use with a patient interface during respiratory therapy of a patient with a therapy flow of gas pressurized above ambient pressure, the vent system providing a vent flow of gas to discharge gas exhaled by the patient from a pressurized volume, the vent flow being continuous during the respiratory therapy. The vent system comprises a vent housing comprising a base having at least one first orifice extending through the base to allow gas to be discharged to atmosphere from the pressurized volume; at least one second orifice to allow gas to be discharged to atmosphere from the pressurized volume; and a membrane positioned adjacent to the base, wherein the pressurized volume is in fluid communication with atmosphere through the at least one first orifice and the at least one second orifice throughout a therapeutic pressure range, and wherein the membrane is elastically deformable due to pressure within the pressurized volume to apportion the vent flow between the at least one first orifice and the at least one second orifice throughout the therapeutic pressure.

[0086] In examples, (a) the vent housing may comprise an outer wall and an inner wall, the inner wall defining an inlet for the therapy flow of gas, and the base may be positioned between the outer wall and the inner wall, (b) the base the base may comprise an inner base and an outer base, (c) the outer base may be adjacent to the outer wall, the inner base may be adjacent to the outer base, and the inner base may be adjacent to the inner wall, (d) the at least one first orifice may comprise a plurality of inner orifices and the at least one second orifice may comprise a plurality of outer orifices, (e) the plurality of outer orifices may pass through the outer base and the plurality of inner orifices may pass between the outer base and the inner base, (f) the vent system may comprise a plurality of base connectors to join the inner base and the outer base and to divide the plurality of inner orifices, (g) the vent system may comprise a plurality of membrane spacers extending from the inner base, (h) the membrane may be supported over the plurality of inner orifices on the outer base and the membrane spacers, (i) the vent housing may comprise a base divider between the inner base and the outer base and the membrane may be supported over the plurality of inner orifices on the base divider and the membrane spacers, (j) the plurality of membrane spacers may

define a plurality of membrane spacer gaps between adjacent ones of the plurality of membrane spacers, (k) the membrane may include an atmosphere-side surface adjacent to the inner base and the outer base of the vent housing and an inner surface defining a membrane opening and an inner base membrane passage for the washout flow may be defined between the atmosphere-side surface of the membrane and the inner base of the vent housing, (l) an inner wall membrane passage for the washout flow may be defined between the inner surface of the membrane and the inner wall of the vent housing, (m) the inner base may comprise a plurality of inner base slots between adjacent ones of the plurality of membrane spacers, (n) the outer base may comprise a plurality of lateral membrane supports that are configured to prevent the membrane from covering the plurality of outer orifices, (o) the vent housing may comprise a plurality of recesses opposite the outer base and at least one of the plurality of outer orifices may open into a corresponding one of the plurality of recesses, (p) the inner wall may extend above the inner base and the outer base, (q) the inner wall may extend below the inner base and the outer base, (r) the membrane may comprises an elastically deformable material, (s) the elastically deformable material may comprise silicone, (t) the vent housing may be formed from a single, homogeneous piece of a relatively rigid material, (u) the relatively rigid material may be polycarbonate, (v) the outer wall, the inner wall, the inner base, the outer base, and the membrane may be circular, (w) the outer wall, the inner wall, the inner base, the outer base, and the membrane may be concentric, and/or (x) the membrane may not be attached to the vent housing such that the membrane is freely movable towards and away from the base.

[0087] Another aspect of the present technology is directed to a patient interface comprising: a seal-forming structure; a plenum chamber joined to the seal-forming structure; a positioning and stabilising structure to secure the patient interface on the patient in use; and the vent system according to any of the aspects and/or examples disclosed in the two immediately preceding paragraphs. The patient interface may comprise a vent connector tube or a decoupling structure to fluidly connect the vent system to the plenum chamber.

[0088] Another aspect of the present technology is directed to a vent system for use with a patient interface during respiratory therapy of a patient with a therapy flow of gas pressurized above ambient pressure, the vent system providing a vent flow of gas to discharge gas exhaled by the patient from a pressurized volume, the vent flow being continuous during the respiratory therapy. The vent system comprises a vent housing a base having at least one first orifice extending through the base to allow gas to be discharged to atmosphere from the pressurized volume; at least one second orifice to allow gas to be discharged to atmosphere from the pressurized volume; and a membrane positioned adjacent to the base, wherein the pressurized volume is in fluid communication with atmosphere through the at least one first orifice and the at least one second orifice throughout a therapeutic pressure range, wherein the membrane is configured such that an increase in pressure within the pressurized volume causes the membrane to restrict a first vent flow through the at least one first orifice throughout the therapeutic pressure range, and wherein restriction of the first vent flow through the at least one first orifice causes an increase in a second vent flow through the at least one second orifice such that the vent flow through the at least one first orifice and the at least one second orifice is approximately constant throughout the therapeutic pressure range.

[0089] In examples, (a) the vent housing may comprise an outer wall and an inner wall, the inner wall defining an inlet for the therapy flow of gas, and the base may be positioned between the outer wall and the inner wall, (b) the washout flow may be greater than or equal to the sum of the first vent flow and the second vent flow, (c) the membrane may be elastically deformable toward the base in use such that the first vent flow is restricted as the membrane is deflected towards the base, (d) the membrane may be configured to deflect closer to the base as the therapy pressure increases above a threshold therapy pressure value, (e) the membrane may be configured to decrease the first vent flow such that the second vent flow increases as the membrane is deflected closer to the base due to increasing the therapy pressure above the threshold therapy pressure value, (f) the at least

one first orifice may comprise a plurality of inner orifices and the at least one second orifice may comprise a plurality of outer orifices, (g) the base may comprise an inner base and an outer base, (h) the vent system may comprise a plurality of membrane spacers extending from the inner base, (i) the membrane may be supported over the plurality of inner orifices on the outer base and the membrane spacers such that increasing the therapy pressure above a threshold therapy pressure value causes the membrane to deflect towards the inner base, (j) the membrane may be configured such that a membrane-inner base gap defined between the membrane and the inner base decreases as the therapy pressure is increased above the threshold therapy pressure value, (k) the membrane may be configured such that as the membrane-inner base gap decreases the first vent flow decreases and the second vent flow increases, (l) the membrane may comprise an elastically deformable material, (m) the elastically deformable material may comprise silicone, (n) the vent housing may be formed from a single, homogeneous piece of a relatively rigid material, (o) the relatively rigid material may be polycarbonate, (p) the outer wall, the inner wall, the inner base, the outer base, and the membrane may be circular, (q) the outer wall, the inner wall, the inner base, the outer base, and the membrane may be concentric, and/or (r) the membrane may not be attached to the vent housing such that the membrane is freely movable towards and away from the base.

[0090] Another aspect of the present technology is directed to a patient interface comprising: a seal-forming structure; a plenum chamber joined to the seal-forming structure; a positioning and stabilising structure to secure the patient interface on the patient in use; and the vent system according to any of the aspects and/or examples disclosed in the two immediately preceding paragraphs. The patient interface may comprise a vent connector tube or a decoupling structure to fluidly connect the vent system to the plenum chamber.

[0091] Another aspect of the present technology is directed to a patient interface that may comprise: a plenum chamber pressurisable to a therapeutic pressure of at least 6 cmH₂O above ambient air pressure, said plenum chamber including a plenum chamber inlet port sized and structured to receive a flow of air at the therapeutic pressure for breathing by a patient; a seal-forming structure constructed and arranged to form a seal with a region of the patient's face surrounding an entrance to the patient's airways such that the flow of air at said therapeutic pressure is delivered to at least an entrance to the patient's nares, the seal-forming structure constructed and arranged to maintain said therapeutic pressure in the plenum chamber throughout the patient's respiratory cycle in use; a positioning and stabilising structure to provide an elastic force to hold the seal-forming structure in a therapeutically effective position on the patient's head, the positioning and stabilising structure comprising a tie, the tie being constructed and arranged so that at least a portion overlies a region of the patient's head superior to an otobasion superior of the patient's head in use, and a portion of the tie being dimensioned and structured to engage in use a portion of the patient's head in a region of a parietal bone, wherein the positioning and stabilising structure has a non-rigid decoupling portion; and a vent system for use with a patient interface during respiratory therapy of a patient with a therapy flow of gas pressurized above ambient pressure, the vent system providing a vent flow of gas to discharge gas exhaled by the patient from a pressurized volume, the vent flow being continuous during the respiratory therapy, the vent system comprising: a vent housing a base having at least one first orifice extending through the base to allow gas to be discharged to atmosphere from the pressurized volume; at least one second orifice to allow gas to be discharged to atmosphere from the pressurized volume; and a membrane positioned adjacent to the base, wherein the pressurized volume is in fluid communication with atmosphere through the at least one first orifice and the at least one second orifice throughout a therapeutic pressure range, wherein the membrane is configured such that an increase in pressure within the pressurized volume causes the membrane to restrict a first vent flow through the at least one first orifice throughout the therapeutic pressure range, and wherein restriction of the first vent flow through the at least one first orifice causes an increase in a second vent flow through the at least one second orifice such that the vent flow through the at least one first orifice and the at least

one second orifice is approximately constant throughout the therapeutic pressure range, and wherein the patient interface is configured to allow the patient to breath from ambient through their mouth in the absence of a flow of pressurised air through the plenum chamber inlet port, or the patient interface is configured to leave the patient's mouth uncovered.

[0092] In examples, (a) the vent housing may comprise an outer wall and an inner wall, the inner wall defining an inlet for the therapy flow of gas, and the base may be positioned between the outer wall and the inner wall, (b) the washout flow may be greater than or equal to the sum of the first vent flow and the second vent flow, (c) the membrane may be elastically deformable toward the base in use such that the first vent flow is restricted as the membrane is deflected towards the base, (d) the membrane may be configured to deflect closer to the base as the therapeutic pressure increases above a threshold therapeutic pressure value, (e) the membrane may be configured to decrease the first vent flow such that the second vent flow increases as the membrane is deflected closer to the base due to increasing the therapeutic pressure above the threshold therapeutic pressure value, (f) the base may comprise an inner base and an outer base, (g) the at least one first orifice may comprise a plurality of inner orifices and the at least one second orifice may comprise a plurality of outer orifices, (h) the vent system may comprise a plurality of membrane spacers extending from the inner base, (i) the membrane may be supported over the plurality of inner orifices on the outer base and the membrane spacers, (j) the vent housing may comprise a base divider between the inner base and the outer base and the membrane may be supported over the plurality of inner orifices on the base divider and the membrane spacers, (k) the outer base may comprise a plurality of lateral membrane supports that are configured to prevent the membrane from covering the plurality of outer orifices, (l) the membrane may comprise an elastically deformable material, (m) the elastically deformable material may comprise silicone, (n) the vent housing may be formed from a single, homogeneous piece of a relatively rigid material, (o) the relatively rigid material may be polycarbonate, (p) the outer wall, the inner wall, the inner base, the outer base, and the membrane may be circular, (q) the outer wall, the inner wall, the inner base, the outer base, and the membrane may be concentric, (r) the membrane may not be attached to the vent housing such that the membrane is freely movable towards and away from the base, and/or(s) the patient interface may comprise a vent connector tube or a decoupling structure to fluidly connect the vent system to the plenum chamber.

[0093] Another aspect of the present technology is directed to a patient interface that may comprise: a plenum chamber pressurisable to a therapeutic pressure of at least 6 cmH₂O above ambient air pressure, said plenum chamber including a plenum chamber inlet port sized and structured to receive a flow of air at the therapeutic pressure for breathing by a patient; a seal-forming structure constructed and arranged to form a seal with a region of the patient's face surrounding an entrance to the patient's airways such that the flow of air at said therapeutic pressure is delivered to at least an entrance to the patient's nares, the seal-forming structure constructed and arranged to maintain said therapeutic pressure in the plenum chamber throughout the patient's respiratory cycle in use; a positioning and stabilising structure to provide an elastic force to hold the seal-forming structure in a therapeutically effective position on the patient's head, the positioning and stabilising structure comprising a tie, the tie being constructed and arranged so that at least a portion overlies a region of the patient's head superior to an otobasion superior of the patient's head in use, and a portion of the tie being dimensioned and structured to engage in use a portion of the patient's head in a region of a parietal bone, wherein the positioning and stabilising structure has a non-rigid decoupling portion; and a vent system to provide a vent flow of gas to discharge gas exhaled by the patient from a pressurized volume, the vent flow being continuous during the respiratory therapy, the vent flow comprising a first vent flow and a second vent flow, the vent system comprising: a vent housing comprising a base having at least one first orifice extending through the base for the first vent flow; at least one second orifice for the second vent flow; and a membrane positioned adjacent to the base, wherein the pressurized volume is in fluid

communication with atmosphere through the at least one first orifice and the at least one second orifice throughout a therapeutic pressure range, wherein the membrane is configured to be elastically deformed by pressure within the pressurized volume such that increased deformation due to increased pressure decreases the first vent flow through the at least one first orifice and increases the second vent flow through the at least one second orifice to maintain a substantially constant vent flow throughout the therapeutic pressure range, and wherein the patient interface is configured to allow the patient to breath from ambient through their mouth in the absence of a flow of pressurised air through the plenum chamber inlet port, or the patient interface is configured to leave the patient's mouth uncovered.

[0094] In examples, (a) the vent housing may comprise an outer wall and an inner wall, the inner wall defining an inlet for the therapy flow of gas, and the base may be positioned between the outer wall and the inner wall, (b) the washout flow may be greater than or equal to the sum of the first vent flow and the second vent flow, (c) the membrane may be elastically deformable toward the base in use such that the first vent flow is restricted as the membrane is deflected towards the base, (d) the membrane may be configured to deflect closer to the base as the therapeutic pressure increases above a threshold therapeutic pressure value, (e) the membrane may be configured to decrease the first vent flow such that the second vent flow increases as the membrane is deflected closer to the base due to increasing the therapeutic pressure above the threshold therapeutic pressure value, (f) the base may comprise an inner base and an outer base, (g) the at least one first orifice may comprise a plurality of inner orifices and the at least one second orifice may comprise a plurality of outer orifices, (h) the vent system may comprise a plurality of membrane spacers extending from the inner base, (i) the membrane may be supported over the plurality of inner orifices on the outer base and the membrane spacers, (j) the vent housing may comprise a base divider between the inner base and the outer base and the membrane may be supported over the plurality of inner orifices on the base divider and the membrane spacers, (k) the outer base may comprise a plurality of lateral membrane supports that are configured to prevent the membrane from covering the plurality of outer orifices, (l) the membrane may comprise an elastically deformable material, (m) the elastically deformable material may comprise silicone, (n) the vent housing may be formed from a single, homogeneous piece of a relatively rigid material, (o) the relatively rigid material may be polycarbonate, (p) the outer wall, the inner wall, the inner base, the outer base, and the membrane may be circular, (q) the outer wall, the inner wall, the inner base, the outer base, and the membrane may be concentric, (r) the membrane may not be attached to the vent housing such that the membrane is freely movable towards and away from the base, and/or(s) the patient interface may comprise a vent connector tube or a decoupling structure to fluidly connect the vent system to the plenum chamber.

[0095] Of course, portions of the aspects may form sub-aspects of the present technology. Also, various ones of the sub-aspects and/or aspects may be combined in various manners and also constitute additional aspects or sub-aspects of the present technology.

[0096] Other features of the technology will be apparent from consideration of the information contained in the following detailed description, abstract, drawings and claims.

4 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0097] The present technology is illustrated by way of example, and not by way of limitation, in the figures of the accompanying drawings, in which like reference numerals refer to similar elements including:

4.1 Treatment Systems

[0098] FIG. 1A shows a system including a patient **1000** wearing a patient interface **3000**, in the form of a nasal pillows, receiving a supply of air at positive pressure from an RPT device **4000**. Air from the RPT device is humidified in a humidifier **5000**, and passes along an air circuit **4170** to the patient **1000**. A bed partner **1100** is also shown.

[0099] FIG. 1B shows a system including a patient **1000** wearing a patient interface **3000**, in the

form of a nasal mask, receiving a supply of air at positive pressure from an RPT device **4000**. Air from the RPT device is humidified in a humidifier **5000**, and passes along an air circuit **4170** to the patient **1000**.

[0100] FIG. **1C** shows a system including a patient **1000** wearing a patient interface **3000**, in the form of a full-face mask, receiving a supply of air at positive pressure from an RPT device **4000**. Air from the RPT device is humidified in a humidifier **5000**, and passes along an air circuit **4170** to the patient **1000**.

4.2 Respiratory System and Facial Anatomy

[0101] FIG. **2A** shows an overview of a human respiratory system including the nasal and oral cavities, the larynx, vocal folds, oesophagus, trachea, bronchus, lung, alveolar sacs, heart and diaphragm.

[0102] FIG. **2B** shows a view of a human upper airway including the nasal cavity, nasal bone, lateral nasal cartilage, greater alar cartilage, nostril, lip superior, lip inferior, larynx, hard palate, soft palate, oropharynx, tongue, epiglottis, vocal folds, oesophagus and trachea.

[0103] FIG. **2C** is a front view of a face with several features of surface anatomy identified including the lip superior, upper vermilion, lower vermilion, lip inferior, mouth width, endocanthion, a nasal ala, nasolabial sulcus and cheilion. Also indicated are the directions superior, inferior, radially inward and radially outward.

[0104] FIG. **2D** is a side view of a head with several features of surface anatomy identified including glabella, sellion, pronasale, subnasale, lip superior, lip inferior, supramenton, nasal ridge, alar crest point, otobasion superior and otobasion inferior. Also indicated are the directions superior & inferior, and anterior & posterior.

[0105] FIG. **2E** is a further side view of a head. The approximate locations of the Frankfort horizontal and nasolabial angle are indicated. The coronal plane is also indicated.

[0106] FIG. **2F** shows a base view of a nose with several features identified including naso-labial sulcus, lip inferior, upper Vermilion, naris, subnasale, columella, pronasale, the major axis of a naris and the sagittal plane.

[0107] FIG. **2G** shows a side view of the superficial features of a nose.

[0108] FIG. **2H** shows subcutaneous structures of the nose, including lateral cartilage, septum cartilage, greater alar cartilage, lesser alar cartilage, sesamoid cartilage, nasal bone, epidermis, adipose tissue, frontal process of the maxilla and fibrofatty tissue.

[0109] FIG. **2I** shows a medial dissection of a nose, approximately several millimeters from a sagittal plane, amongst other things showing the septum cartilage and medial crus of greater alar cartilage.

[0110] FIG. **2J** shows a front view of the bones of a skull including the frontal, nasal and zygomatic bones. Nasal concha are indicated, as are the maxilla, and mandible.

[0111] FIG. **2K** shows a lateral view of a skull with the outline of the surface of a head, as well as several muscles. The following bones are shown: frontal, sphenoid, nasal, zygomatic, maxilla, mandible, parietal, temporal and occipital. The mental protuberance is indicated. The following muscles are shown: digastricus, masseter, sternocleidomastoideo trapezius.

[0112] FIG. **2L** shows an anterolateral view of a nose.

4.3 Patient Interface

[0113] FIG. **3A** shows a patient interface in the form of a nasal mask in accordance with one form of the present technology.

[0114] FIG. **3B** shows a schematic of a cross-section through a structure at a point. An outward normal at the point is indicated. The curvature at the point has a positive sign, and a relatively large magnitude when compared to the magnitude of the curvature shown in FIG. **3C**.

[0115] FIG. **3C** shows a schematic of a cross-section through a structure at a point. An outward normal at the point is indicated. The curvature at the point has a positive sign, and a relatively small magnitude when compared to the magnitude of the curvature shown in FIG. **3B**.

[0116] FIG. 3D shows a schematic of a cross-section through a structure at a point. An outward normal at the point is indicated. The curvature at the point has a value of zero.

[0117] FIG. 3E shows a schematic of a cross-section through a structure at a point. An outward normal at the point is indicated. The curvature at the point has a negative sign, and a relatively small magnitude when compared to the magnitude of the curvature shown in FIG. 3F.

[0118] FIG. 3F shows a schematic of a cross-section through a structure at a point. An outward normal at the point is indicated. The curvature at the point has a negative sign, and a relatively large magnitude when compared to the magnitude of the curvature shown in FIG. 3E.

[0119] FIG. 3G shows a cushion for a mask that includes two pillows. An exterior surface of the cushion is indicated. An edge of the surface is indicated. Dome and saddle regions are indicated.

[0120] FIG. 3H shows a cushion for a mask. An exterior surface of the cushion is indicated. An edge of the surface is indicated. A path on the surface between points A and B is indicated. A straight line distance between A and B is indicated. Two saddle regions and a dome region are indicated.

4.4 RPT Device

[0121] FIG. 4A shows an RPT device in accordance with one form of the present technology.

[0122] FIG. 4B is a schematic diagram of the pneumatic path of an RPT device in accordance with one form of the present technology. The directions of upstream and downstream are indicated.

[0123] FIG. 4C is a schematic diagram of the electrical components of an RPT device in accordance with one form of the present technology.

[0124] FIG. 4D is a schematic diagram of the algorithms implemented in an RPT device in accordance with one form of the present technology.

[0125] FIG. 4E is a flow chart illustrating a method carried out by the therapy engine module of FIG. 4D in accordance with one form of the present technology.

4.5 Humidifier

[0126] FIG. 5A shows an isometric view of a humidifier in accordance with one form of the present technology.

[0127] FIG. 5B shows an isometric view of a humidifier in accordance with one form of the present technology, showing a humidifier reservoir **5110** removed from the humidifier reservoir dock **5130**.

[0128] FIG. 5C shows a schematic of a humidifier in accordance with one form of the present technology.

4.6 Vent Adaptor

[0129] FIG. 6A shows a side view of a fluid connector with a first end and a second end mated with one another.

[0130] FIG. 6B shows a side, cross-sectional view of a fluid connector with a first end and a second end disengaged from one another.

[0131] FIG. 6C shows a side, cross-sectional view of a fluid connector with a first end and a second end mated with one another.

[0132] FIG. 6D shows a perspective view of a fluid connector with a first end and a second end separated from one another with an interior of the first end being visible.

[0133] FIG. 6E shows a cross-sectional view of a fluid connector with an additional fluid port.

[0134] FIG. 6F shows a fluid connector with a first end and a second end connected together and the first end integrated into an RTP device.

[0135] FIG. 6G shows a fluid connector with a first end and a second end disconnected and the first end integrated into an RTP device

[0136] FIG. 6H shows a perspective view of a fluid connector with a first end and a second end separated from one another with the sealing surface of the second end being visible.

[0137] FIG. 7A shows a perspective view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0138] FIG. 7B shows a side view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0139] FIG. 7C shows a top view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0140] FIG. 7D shows a cross-section view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology taken through line 7D-7D of FIG. 7C.

[0141] FIG. 7E shows an exploded view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0142] FIG. 7F shows another exploded view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0143] FIG. 8A shows a perspective view of a vent housing according to an example of the present technology.

[0144] FIG. 8B shows another perspective view of a vent housing according to an example of the present technology.

[0145] FIG. 8C shows a side view of a vent housing according to an example of the present technology.

[0146] FIG. 8D shows another side view of a vent housing according to an example of the present technology.

[0147] FIG. 8E shows a top view of a vent housing according to an example of the present technology.

[0148] FIG. 8F shows a cross-section view of a vent housing according to an example of the present technology taken through line 8F-8F of FIG. 8E.

[0149] FIG. 9A shows a perspective view of a vent housing connector according to an example of the present technology.

[0150] FIG. 9B shows another perspective view of a vent housing connector according to an example of the present technology.

[0151] FIG. 9C shows a side view of a vent housing connector according to an example of the present technology.

[0152] FIG. 9D shows another side view of a vent housing connector according to an example of the present technology.

[0153] FIG. 9E shows a top view of a vent housing connector according to an example of the present technology.

[0154] FIG. 10A shows a perspective view of a bellows seal according to an example of the present technology.

[0155] FIG. 10B shows another perspective view of a bellows seal according to an example of the present technology.

[0156] FIG. 10C shows a side view of a bellows seal according to an example of the present technology.

[0157] FIG. 10D shows another side view of a bellows seal according to an example of the present technology.

[0158] FIG. 10E shows a bottom view of a bellows seal according to an example of the present technology.

[0159] FIG. 11A shows a perspective view of a vent adaptor connector according to an example of the present technology.

[0160] FIG. 11B shows another perspective view of a vent adaptor connector according to an example of the present technology.

[0161] FIG. 11C shows a side view of a vent adaptor connector according to an example of the present technology.

[0162] FIG. 11D shows another side view of a vent adaptor connector according to an example of the present technology.

[0163] FIG. **11E** shows a bottom view of a vent adaptor connector according to an example of the present technology.

[0164] FIG. **12A** shows a perspective view of a heat and moisture exchanger (HME) clip according to an example of the present technology.

[0165] FIG. **12B** shows a side view of a heat and moisture exchanger (HME) clip according to an example of the present technology.

[0166] FIG. **12C** shows another side view of a heat and moisture exchanger (HME) clip according to an example of the present technology.

[0167] FIG. **12D** shows another side view of a heat and moisture exchanger (HME) clip according to an example of the present technology.

[0168] FIG. **13A** shows a perspective view of a heat and moisture exchanger (HME) housing according to an example of the present technology.

[0169] FIG. **13B** shows a side view of a heat and moisture exchanger (HME) housing according to an example of the present technology.

[0170] FIG. **13C** shows another side view of a heat and moisture exchanger (HME) housing according to an example of the present technology.

[0171] FIG. **13D** shows a top view of a heat and moisture exchanger (HME) housing according to an example of the present technology.

[0172] FIG. **14A** shows a perspective view of a conduit connector according to an example of the present technology.

[0173] FIG. **14B** shows a top view of a conduit connector according to an example of the present technology.

[0174] FIG. **14C** shows a side view of a conduit connector according to an example of the present technology.

[0175] FIG. **14D** shows a front view of a conduit connector according to an example of the present technology.

[0176] FIG. **15A** shows a perspective view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0177] FIG. **15B** shows another perspective view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0178] FIG. **15C** shows an exploded view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0179] FIG. **15D** shows an exploded view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0180] FIG. **15E** shows a side view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0181] FIG. **15F** shows a cross-section view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology taken through line **15F-15F** of FIG. **15B**.

[0182] FIG. **16** shows a graph of vent flow from a full face mask compared to vent flow from a constant flow vent (CFV) according to the present technology over a range of therapeutic pressures.

[0183] FIG. **17** shows a diagram of a patient receiving therapy according to an example of the present technology.

[0184] FIG. **18** shows a graph of vent flow from a full face mask compared to vent flow from a constant flow vent (CFV) according to the present technology over a range of therapeutic pressures.

[0185] FIG. **19** shows a graph of vent flow from a constant flow vent (CFV) only, from a passive vent only, and a combination of both according to the present technology over a range of therapeutic pressures.

[0186] FIG. **20** shows an example of a constant flow vent (CFV) membrane according to an

example of the present technology.

[0187] FIG. **21A** shows a cross-section view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0188] FIG. **21B** shows an exploded view of a constant flow vent (CFV) of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0189] FIG. **21C** shows a rear view of a constant flow vent (CFV) of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0190] FIG. **21D** shows a perspective view of a constant flow vent (CFV) of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0191] FIG. **21E** shows another perspective view of a constant flow vent (CFV) of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0192] FIG. **21F** shows a cross-section view of a constant flow vent (CFV) of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0193] FIG. **22** shows an exploded view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0194] FIG. **23** shows a chart of exemplary patient interfaces according to the present technology.

[0195] FIG. **24A** shows a cross-section view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0196] FIG. **24B** shows a perspective view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0197] FIG. **25A** shows a cross sectional view of a HME **7000** comprising a single layer **7001** in accordance with one aspect of the present technology.

[0198] FIG. **25B** shows examples of a single corrugation **7030** of a HME **7000** in accordance with one aspect of the present technology.

[0199] FIG. **25C** is a schematic diagram showing a HME **7000** comprising a plurality of layers **7001** stacked along both a vertical and horizontal axis.

[0200] FIG. **25D** is a diagram that illustrates a HME under preload to compress the corrugations in a fixed volume such that the number of layers **7001** is increased within the fixed volume.

[0201] FIG. **25E** displays a corrugated structure **7002** comprising a plurality of corrugations **7030**, wherein the corrugated structure is rolled to form a HME **7000**.

[0202] FIG. **26** depicts orifices, a diffusing member and a blocking member that form part of a gas washout vent.

[0203] FIG. **27** depicts orifices, a diffusing member and a blocking member that form part of a gas washout vent where holes are provided in the blocking member.

[0204] FIG. **28** depicts an exploded view of orifices, a diffusing member and a blocking member that form part of a gas washout vent formed circularly about a central hole.

[0205] FIG. **29** depicts a simplified view of orifices, a diffusing member and a blocking member that form part of a gas washout vent formed circularly about a central hole.

[0206] FIG. **30** depicts a cross-sectional view taken through line **30-30** of FIG. **29**.

[0207] FIG. **31A** depicts a partial view of an elbow with a gas washout vent with one annular outlet.

[0208] FIG. **31B** depicts an axial view of orifices in the gas washout vent of FIG. **31B**.

[0209] FIG. **31C** depicts a cross-sectional view taken through the plane of the drawing of FIG. **31**, which is equivalent to the plane labelled **31C-31C** in FIG. **31B**.

[0210] FIG. **32A** depicts an elbow with a ball and socket joint and gas washout vent.

[0211] FIG. **32B** depicts an exploded view of the elbow of FIG. **32A**.

[0212] FIG. **32C** depicts a side view of the elbow.

[0213] FIG. **32D** depicts a cross-sectional view taking through line **32D-32D** of FIG. **32C**.

[0214] FIG. **33A** depicts a perspective view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0215] FIG. 33B depicts another perspective view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0216] FIG. 33C depicts a superior view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0217] FIG. 33D depicts an inferior view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0218] FIG. 33E depicts a lateral view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0219] FIG. 33F depicts a cross-sectional view of a vent adaptor taken through line 33F-33F of FIG. 33C according to an example of the present technology.

[0220] FIG. 33G depicts an exploded view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0221] FIG. 34A depicts a perspective view of a vent assembly for a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0222] FIG. 34B depicts another perspective view of a vent assembly for a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0223] FIG. 34C depicts a posterior view of a vent assembly for a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0224] FIG. 34D depicts an anterior view of a vent assembly for a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0225] FIG. 34E depicts a lateral view of a vent assembly for a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0226] FIG. 34F depicts a cross-sectional view of a vent assembly for a vent adaptor taken through line 34F-34F of FIG. 34C according to an example of the present technology.

[0227] FIG. 34G depicts an exploded view of a vent assembly for a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0228] FIG. 35 depicts a perspective view of a vent adaptor with a patient interface according to an example of the present technology.

[0229] FIG. 36A depicts a perspective view of an air circuit according to an example of the present technology.

[0230] FIG. 36B depicts another perspective view of an air circuit according to an example of the present technology.

[0231] FIG. 36C depicts an exploded view of an air circuit according to an example of the present technology.

[0232] FIG. 37A depicts a perspective view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0233] FIG. 37B depicts another perspective view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0234] FIG. 37C depicts a lateral view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0235] FIG. 37D depicts a cross-sectional view of a vent adaptor taken through line 37D-37D of FIG. 37B according to an example of the present technology.

[0236] FIG. 37E depicts an exploded view of a vent adaptor according to an example of the present technology.

[0237] FIG. 38A depicts a perspective view of a heat and moisture exchanger (HME) housing according to an example of the present technology.

[0238] FIG. 38B depicts another perspective view of a HME housing according to an example of the present technology.

[0239] FIG. 38C depicts an exploded view of a HME housing according to an example of the present technology.

[0240] FIG. 39A depicts a perspective view of a heat and moisture exchanger (HME) housing according to an example of the present technology.

[0241] FIG. 39B depicts another perspective view of a HME housing according to an example of the present technology.

[0242] FIG. 39C depicts an exploded view of a HME housing according to an example of the present technology.

[0243] FIG. 40 depicts a perspective view of a vent adaptor with a patient interface according to an example of the present technology.

[0244] FIG. 41 depicts a perspective view of a vent adaptor with a patient interface according to an example of the present technology.

[0245] FIG. 42A shows a top perspective view of a vent housing according to another example of the present technology.

[0246] FIG. 42B shows a top view of a vent housing according to another example of the present technology.

[0247] FIG. 42C shows a bottom view of a vent housing according to another example of the present technology.

[0248] FIG. 42D shows a bottom perspective view of a vent housing according to another example of the present technology.

[0249] FIG. 42E shows a side view of a vent housing according to another example of the present technology.

[0250] FIG. 42F shows a cross-sectional view of a vent housing according to another example of the present technology taken through line 42F-42F of FIG. 42B.

[0251] FIG. 42G shows a cross-sectional view of a vent housing according to another example of the present technology taken through line 42G-42G of FIG. 42B.

[0252] FIG. 43A shows a top perspective view of a vent system according to another example of the present technology.

[0253] FIG. 43B shows a top view of a vent system according to another example of the present technology.

[0254] FIG. 43C shows a bottom view of a vent system according to another example of the present technology.

[0255] FIG. 43D shows a bottom perspective view of a vent system according to another example of the present technology.

[0256] FIG. 43E shows a side view of a vent system according to another example of the present technology.

[0257] FIG. 43F shows a cross-sectional view of a vent system according to another example of the present technology taken through line 43F-43F of FIG. 43B.

[0258] FIG. 43G shows a cross-sectional view of a vent system according to an example of the present technology taken through line 43G-43G of FIG. 43B.

Description

5 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXAMPLES OF THE TECHNOLOGY

[0259] Before the present technology is described in further detail, it is to be understood that the technology is not limited to the particular examples described herein, which may vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used in this disclosure is for the purpose of describing only the particular examples discussed herein, and is not intended to be limiting.

[0260] The following description is provided in relation to various examples which may share one or more common characteristics and/or features. It is to be understood that one or more features of any one example may be combinable with one or more features of another example or other

examples. In addition, any single feature or combination of features in any of the examples may constitute a further example.

5.1 Therapy

[0261] In one form, the present technology comprises a method for treating a respiratory disorder comprising the step of applying positive pressure to the entrance of the airways of a patient **1000**.

[0262] In certain examples of the present technology, a supply of air at positive pressure is provided to the nasal passages of the patient via one or both nares.

[0263] In certain examples of the present technology, mouth breathing is limited, restricted or prevented.

5.2 Treatment Systems

[0264] In one form, the present technology comprises an apparatus or device for treating a respiratory disorder. The apparatus or device may comprise an RPT device **4000** for supplying pressurised air to the patient **1000** via an air circuit **4170** to a patient interface **3000**.

5.3 Patient Interface

[0265] A non-invasive patient interface **3000** in accordance with one aspect of the present technology comprises the following functional aspects: a seal-forming structure **3100**, a plenum chamber **3200**, a positioning and stabilising structure **3300**, a vent **3400**, one form of connection port **3600** for connection to air circuit **4170**, and a forehead support **3700**. In some forms a functional aspect may be provided by one or more physical components. In some forms, one physical component may provide one or more functional aspects. In use the seal-forming structure **3100** is arranged to surround an entrance to the airways of the patient so as to facilitate the supply of air at positive pressure to the airways.

5.3.1 Seal-Forming Structure

[0266] In one form of the present technology, a seal-forming structure **3100** provides a seal-forming surface, and may additionally provide a cushioning function.

[0267] A seal-forming structure **3100** in accordance with the present technology may be constructed from a soft, flexible, resilient material such as silicone.

[0268] In one form, the seal-forming structure **3100** comprises a sealing flange and a support flange. The sealing flange comprises a relatively thin member with a thickness of less than about 1 mm, for example about 0.25 mm to about 0.45 mm, that extends around the perimeter of the plenum chamber **3200**. Support flange may be relatively thicker than the sealing flange. The support flange is disposed between the sealing flange and the marginal edge of the plenum chamber **3200**, and extends at least part of the way around the perimeter. The support flange is or includes a spring-like element and functions to support the sealing flange from buckling in use. In use the sealing flange can readily respond to system pressure in the plenum chamber **3200** acting on its underside to urge it into tight sealing engagement with the face.

[0269] In one form the seal-forming portion of the non-invasive patient interface **3000** comprises a pair of nasal puffs, or nasal pillows, each nasal puff or nasal pillow being constructed and arranged to form a seal with a respective naris of the nose of a patient.

[0270] Nasal pillows in accordance with an aspect of the present technology include: a frusto-cone, at least a portion of which forms a seal on an underside of the patient's nose, a stalk, a flexible region on the underside of the frusto-cone and connecting the frusto-cone to the stalk. In addition, the structure to which the nasal pillow of the present technology is connected includes a flexible region adjacent the base of the stalk. The flexible regions can act in concert to facilitate a universal joint structure that is accommodating of relative movement both displacement and angular of the frusto-cone and the structure to which the nasal pillow is connected. For example, the frusto-cone may be axially displaced towards the structure to which the stalk is connected.

[0271] In one form, the non-invasive patient interface **3000** comprises a seal-forming portion that forms a seal in use on an upper lip region (that is, the lip superior) of the patient's face.

[0272] In one form the non-invasive patient interface **3000** comprises a seal-forming portion that

forms a seal in use on a chin-region of the patient's face.

5.3.2 Plenum Chamber

[0273] The plenum chamber **3200** has a perimeter that is shaped to be complementary to the surface contour of the face of an average person in the region where a seal will form in use. In use, a marginal edge of the plenum chamber **3200** is positioned in close proximity to an adjacent surface of the face. Actual contact with the face is provided by the seal-forming structure **3100**. The seal-forming structure **3100** may extend in use about the entire perimeter of the plenum chamber **3200**.

5.3.3 Positioning and Stabilising Structure

[0274] The seal-forming structure **3100** of the patient interface **3000** of the present technology may be held in sealing position in use by the positioning and stabilising structure **3300**.

[0275] In one form of the present technology, a positioning and stabilising structure **3300** is provided that is configured in a manner consistent with being worn by a patient while sleeping. In one example the positioning and stabilising structure **3300** has a low profile, or cross-sectional thickness, to reduce the perceived or actual bulk of the apparatus. In one example, the positioning and stabilising structure **3300** comprises at least one strap having a rectangular cross-section. In one example the positioning and stabilising structure **3300** comprises at least one flat strap.

[0276] In one form of the present technology, a positioning and stabilising structure **3300** comprises a strap constructed from a laminate of a fabric patient-contacting layer, a foam inner layer and a fabric outer layer. In one form, the foam is porous to allow moisture, (e.g., sweat), to pass through the strap. In one form, the fabric outer layer comprises loop material to engage with a hook material portion.

[0277] In certain forms of the present technology, a positioning and stabilising structure **3300** comprises a strap that is extensible, e.g. resiliently extensible. For example the strap may be configured in use to be in tension, and to direct a force to draw a cushion into sealing contact with a portion of a patient's face. In an example the strap may be configured as a tie.

[0278] In certain forms of the present technology, a positioning and stabilising structure **3300** comprises a strap that is bendable and e.g. non-rigid. An advantage of this aspect is that the strap is more comfortable for a patient to lie upon while the patient is sleeping.

5.3.4 Vent

[0279] In one form, the patient interface **3000** includes a vent **3400** constructed and arranged to allow for the washout of exhaled gases, e.g. carbon dioxide.

[0280] One form of vent **3400** in accordance with the present technology comprises a plurality of holes, for example, about 20 to about 80 holes, or about 40 to about 60 holes, or about 45 to about 55 holes.

[0281] The vent **3400** may be located in the plenum chamber **3200**. Alternatively, the vent **3400** is located in a decoupling structure, e.g., a swivel.

5.3.5 Decoupling Structure(s)

[0282] In one form the patient interface **3000** includes at least one decoupling structure, for example, a swivel or a ball and socket.

5.3.6 Connection Port

[0283] Connection port **3600** allows for connection to the air circuit **4170**.

5.3.7 Forehead Support

[0284] In one form, the patient interface **3000** includes a forehead support **3700**.

5.3.8 Anti-Asphyxia Valve

[0285] In one form, the patient interface **3000** includes an anti-asphyxia valve.

5.3.9 Ports

[0286] In one form of the present technology, a patient interface **3000** includes one or more ports that allow access to the volume within the plenum chamber **3200**. In one form this allows a clinician to supply supplemental oxygen. In one form, this allows for the direct measurement of a property of gases within the plenum chamber **3200**, such as the pressure.

5.4 Vent Adaptor

5.4.1 Constant Flow Vent

[0287] FIG. **16** shows a comparison of vent flow rate between a regular vent (FFM Nom Flow) versus the constant flow vent (CFV). The regular vent is a standard moulded vent, e.g., a vent **3400** formed on the patient interface **3000** in FIG. **3A**. As can be seen in the graph, the vent flow rate is compared in a range of mask pressures between 4-20 cm of H₂O, which is a standard pressure range for Respiratory Pressure Therapy for SDB and OSA. As can be seen, the vent flow rate increases logarithmically as the pressure increases. In comparison, the CFV shows a flatter curve, where the vent flow rate appears more constant and lower over the same pressure range.

[0288] Vent flow should be at least 16 L/min to washout enough CO₂ within the system such that CO₂ rebreathing is minimized by the patient. It has been shown that a vent flow rate of between 20-27 L/min provides breathing comfort (patient not awakened due to increased CO₂ rebreathing) and safety (avoid suffocation due to too much CO₂ rebreathing). One aspect of the present technology includes providing a minimum (or minimum range) vent flow to ensure that sufficient CO₂ is washed out. Any vent flow above that minimum may be considered wastage. For example, when viewing the graph shown in FIG. **16**, the area between the CFV vent flow and FFM Nom flow may be considered wasted flow. The CFV achieves the minimum vent flow rate of 16 L/min required within therapeutic pressure range and keeps this vent flow rate between 16-27 L/min within the pressure range of 4-20 cm of H₂O. In comparison, the FFM Nom flow ranges from 22-55 L/min. Thus, there may be greater unnecessary flow loss using the FFM nom flow vent.

[0289] To compensate for unnecessary flow loss, the flow generator or RPT device may be required to increase its flow to achieve the same pressure as compared to the CFV. Thus, more power is required and a more complex flow generator is required to allow for greater flow swings (e.g. between 16-55 L/min of vent flow) to compensate for this vent. The CFV, however, may regulate the vent flow under pressure changes to reduce the vent flow rate as pressure increases. Thus, the CFV may allow for greater power savings by the flow generator and added simplicity due to avoiding the need for complex pressure/flow control.

[0290] A constant flow vent (CFV), according to the present technology, may be a vent flow regulating valve (moveable membrane) **9140** that reacts to mask pressure to regulate vent flow. An exemplary CFV is depicted in FIGS. **21A-21F**. The valve **9140** may be tuned such that the flow remains relatively constant within a predetermined range of pressure. That is, when pressure increases in the mask/system, the flap **9140** covers more internal vent holes **9126** to reduce the vent flow rate (vent flow rate increases at higher pressures); when the pressure is low in the mask/system, the flap **9140** covers fewer of the vent holes and allows more vent flow (compensates for low vent flow rates at lower pressures). This tuning may allow for a substantially constant vent flow within a range of pressures. The graph in FIG. **18** illustrates changes in flow under changes in pressure with and without the CFV. The performance of the exemplary CFV graphed in FIG. **18** has a flow rate of up to 24 L/min as pressure increases from 0-40 cm H₂O.

[0291] According to an example of the present technology, the CFV may comprise a moveable flap or a CFV membrane **9140** and may be made of elastic material such as silicone or other TPE (thermoplastic elastomers). The flap **9140** may be configured such that an increase in pressure in the mask urges the flap to cover more of the internal vent holes **9126** and reduces the flow rate progressively. The flap **9140** may be positioned perpendicular to the flow of pressurized gas flowing to the patient. The vent passage of the internal vent holes **9126** may also run perpendicularly to the flow and away from the patient to exit to the atmosphere. The flap **9140** is positioned such that pressure build up in the mask may urge the flap towards the internal vent holes **9126**.

[0292] FIG. **21F** shows the configuration of an exemplary CFV in cross section. The CFV unit may be placed in line (that is within the air delivery conduit circuit). As shown in FIG. **21F**, if pressure builds up in the mask then the position of the flap **9140** is such that the flap **9140** may move

towards the internal vent holes **9126**. The pressurized gas that reaches the internal vent holes **9126** that are not blocked by the flap **9140** can then be vented to atmosphere via the external vent holes **9125**.

[0293] The CFV is a feature that may allow for simplification of the RPT system. Having a substantially constant vent flow rate within a range of pressures means that the complexity of the flow generator or RPT device may be reduced as substantial pressure control is no longer required to compensate for changing pressure loss due to venting. Moreover, the CFV may allow for reduced power consumption as power is no longer required to compensate for flow variations at different pressures. That is, the CFV is passively (pressure driven) and is capable of regulating pressure due to vent flow changes that would otherwise be actively compensated by changes in pressure/flow delivery from the RPT device. This simplification allows for a simpler RPT device to deliver therapy, e.g., the device may have fewer parts, it may be smaller, it may not require powered humidification, and/or it may require less power overall to deliver therapy (due to the fact that it does not need to compensate for vent flow changes). The CFV may also allow for passive humidification via a heat and moisture exchanger (HME), as described below.

[0294] A problem with known CFV concepts is that there may be vent noise associated when regulating the vent flow. It is possible that there is some interaction with the flap **9140** and the internal vent holes **9126** that disturbs vent flow and causes noise. For example, it is hypothesized that the moveable flap **9140** does not fully cover some of the internal vent holes **9126** when moving under pressure. This interaction may cause turbulence and associated noise as gas flows between the flap **9140** and the internal vent hole **9126**.

[0295] One way to reduce turbulence and, therefore, noise may be to reduce the number of holes **9126** that interact with the flap **9140**. However, a minimum vent flow is required to prevent CO₂ rebreathing in the mask and reducing the number of vent holes **9126** that interact with the flap **9140** may not allow sufficient venting. Thus, a solution according to the present technology may involve having some of the vent holes **9126** being regulated by radial disc flap **9140** and other vent holes **9126** not engaging with the flap **9140** and remaining open at all times. Having some vent holes **9126** open, i.e., the static vents, at all times means that the vent flow rate will increase as pressure increases in the system, according to Bernoulli's principle.

[0296] To compensate for this increase in vent flow rate such that the overall vent flow is substantially constant over the therapeutic range of pressures, the vent flow of the remaining vent holes, i.e., the regulated vents, may be reduced as pressure increases. These vent holes **9126** may be regulated by the moveable flap **9140**, wherein the vent holes **9126** are covered progressively as the pressure increases, thereby reducing the vent flow rate. The overall flow rate of the static vents can then be averaged with the flow rate of the regulated vents to achieve an overall substantially constant flow rate over a range of therapeutic pressures. The lower noise levels of the vents can also be attributed to moulded vent technology that produces low levels of noise as pressure and vent flow increases (e.g., by moulding small vent holes with a converging profile). This technology in combination with the regulated vent flow may allow for a low overall noise alternative for a constant flow vent.

[0297] A vent adaptor **9100** or fluid connector may comprise a constant flow vent (CFV) unit. The CFV unit may comprise: a CFV ring **9150**; a flat, annular valve **9140**; and a vent housing **9120**. The CFV ring **9150** may hold the valve **9140** in place against the vent holes **9126**. The vent housing **9120** may comprise an annular surface comprising a plurality of vent holes **9126**. The annular surface may comprise a central orifice for allowing the flow of pressurised gas into the mask chamber (inlet flow). The annular surface may comprise the plurality of vent holes **9126** to allow vent flow. The valve **9140** may be adjacent to the vent holes **9126** and may be held freely between i.e., sandwiched between, the CFV ring **9150** and the annular surface of the vent housing **9120**, i.e., the flap **9140** is not fixed to CFV ring **9150** or the vent housing **9120**. As mask pressure increases, this increases pressure towards the vent, wherein the valve **9140** is pushed towards and covers more

of the vent holes **9126**. In contrast, as mask pressure decreases, less pressure is applied to the valve **9140**, thus the valve **9140** moves away from and covers less of the vent holes **9126**.

[0298] Reducing the vent noise for the constant flow vent design may be accomplished by altering the vent flow characteristics by the use of a flow regulating valve or membrane **9140**. However, the membrane **9140** may increase vent noise over traditional moulded or static vents, i.e., the vent holes do not change form or shape during changes in pressure. This noise may be attributed to a number of factors, including: 1) the change of the velocity of flow through the regulated vents as the vent holes **9126** are opened or closed by the membrane **9140** and/or 2) flow disturbances caused by the membrane **9140** that generate noise, i.e., turbulence. For example, changing the direction of vent flow can cause turbulence, which may then result in noise from a number of factors. This can be caused by gases colliding into the surfaces of the vent (vent walls or CFV membrane) **9140**, or air passing over the surface of the vent (vent walls and/or membrane) **9140**. Thus, partially closing vent holes **9126** can generate more noise due to factors 1) and/or 2) above.

[0299] As mentioned above, an aspect of the present technology includes a vent with a substantially constant flow within a therapeutic pressure range (i.e., 4-20 cm H₂O, or 2-40 cm H₂O). To meet the desired vent flow curve under pressure changes, the vent holes' **9126** flow curve may be varied dynamically over the therapeutic pressure range. This may be accomplished by changing the size, number, and/or shape of the vent holes. Varying such characteristics may lead to changes in flow characteristics of gases passing through the vent holes, which can lead to an increase in vent noise. Using moulded vent technology that includes a converging vent hole shape as gases exit the vent into the atmosphere, i.e., converging from the internal vent holes **9126** to the external vent holes **9125**, noise of the vent flow may be tuned to a minimum. However, it should be understood that moulded vent holes do not change size, shape, or number under pressure changes. Accordingly, deformable membranes or flaps **9140** that move under pressure to close off or open vents may be used to vary the flow through the vent holes **9126**. Deformable membranes or flaps **9140**, however, may generate undesirable noise levels due to the change of the velocity of flow through the regulated vents as the vent holes **9126** are opened or closed by the membrane **9140** and/or by having partially closed vent holes **9126**.

[0300] It may be possible to reduce such noise by including membrane flaps **9140** that progressively close off vent holes **9126** as pressure increases, wherein the flap(s) **9140** is fixed on one end such that the flap **9140** deflects under pressure changes. A problem with this technology is that the membrane **9140** may only partially close off a given vent hole **9126**, which can lead to flow passing between the vent hole **9126** and membrane **9140** at high velocities. This, in turn, generates noise as air passes along the surface of the vent holes **9126** and membrane **9140** or collides into these surfaces.

[0301] It is possible to overcome this issue by reducing the number of regulated vent holes, while maintaining an overall substantially constant vent flow within the therapeutic pressure range to reduce vent noise. A desired noise levels can be maintained using moulded vent holes (i.e., static vents). These vent holes, however, may not be able achieve the desired flow curve (i.e., a substantially constant flow rate over a therapeutic pressure range between 4-20 cm H₂O). This may be achieved by combining some regulated vent holes with static vent holes, such that the overall vent flow is substantially constant over a therapeutic pressure range. Increasing the number of static vents, which are not regulated by a membrane, may result in a reduction in overall vent noise.

[0302] This introduction of moulded vent holes, however, may introduce a new problem, whereby it may be difficult to ensure a substantially constant vent flow within the therapeutic pressure range using a combination of static vents and regulated vents. It is known, as shown in FIG. **16**, that the vent flow characteristics of moulded static vent holes is a logarithmic curve where vent flow increases as pressure increases. To compensate for the flow of the static vents, the regulated vents should provide an inverse flow curve where vent flow decreases as pressure increases. Thus, the membrane **9140** regulating the vent holes **9126** may be tuned to provide such a vent flow.

[0303] There are a number of ways to tune the membrane **9140** to provide a vent flow that is inverse to the logarithmic flow curve of the static, moulded vents. For example, the shape/structure of the membrane **9140** may be changed to tune the flow curve of the regulated vents and the material of the membrane **9140** may be changed to tune the flow curve of the regulated vents.

[0304] An annular disc membrane **9140** structure of the CFV membrane, as shown in FIG. 20, may allow the membrane **9140** to be tuned in a number of ways such that it changes the regulated vent flow. The regulated vent flow may be altered by how much of the vent holes **9126** are covered/opened under a fixed pressure. A membrane **9140** that covers more of the vents under a fixed pressure would have a lower vent flow than one that covers less. The annular disc structure **9140** may allow for the membrane **9140** to be readily tuned to cover varying amounts of the vents under a fixed pressure. One way this may be done is by changing the diameter of the central orifice or by changing the width of the vent engaging surface.

[0305] The overall size of the membrane **9140** is restricted by the size of the CFV unit housing **9120**, however, it is desirable to reduce the size of the CFV as much as possible. Thus, the width of the vent hole engaging surface may be adjusted by adjusting the size of the central orifice. An increase in the size of the central orifice results in the width of the vent hole engaging surface to also be reduced. This reduction in width, in turn, results in a reduction in surface area of the membrane **9140**. The reduction in surface area means there is less resistance to deformation under a fixed pressure, whereby more of the vent holes are covered at the fixed pressure compared to a wider membrane **9140** (i.e., more surface area). This principle holds true within a predetermined range of surface area. That is, if the surface area is too low such that there is not enough surface (i.e., width of the vent hole engaging surface is too low), then more force is required to deform the membrane **9140** (i.e., it bottoms out).

[0306] The membrane **9140** thickness may also be varied such that it deforms more readily under a fixed pressure. For example, a thinner membrane **9140** would more readily deform under a mask pressure of 15 cm H₂O when compared to a thicker membrane **9140** of the same shape at the same pressure.

[0307] The membrane **9140** may also be structured such that it freely moves to cover the vent holes **9126** under a fixed pressure. For example, in related technologies, the membrane **9140** may be fixed at a point, e.g., on the vent housing **9120** such that it is hinged relative to the fixed point and the membrane **9140** would be deflected about the fixed point due to pressure changes.

[0308] The design of the CFV membrane **9140** according to an example of the present technology allows it to freely move between a retaining structure and a vent hole surface. This configuration may allow the membrane **9140** to be more easily tuned to adjust the vent flow when compared to a flap design, i.e., where the membrane is fixed on one end and moves relative to the fixed end.

[0309] A membrane **9140** that is more flexible/compliant may deform more readily under a fixed pressure/load, thereby covering more of the vent holes **9126** in comparison to a stiffer membrane. Thus, changing the material of a membrane **9140**, while otherwise having the same size and structure, to a more flexible material will allow the membrane **9140** to deform more readily under the same pressure to cover more of the vent holes **9126** and reduce vent flow. Thus, this may allow tuning the membrane **9140** to provide the desired vent flow curve within the therapeutic pressure range.

[0310] A number of ways, as mentioned above, can be used to provide a membrane **9140** that responds to pressure within the targeted therapeutic range to provide a predetermined vent flow curve, i.e., an overall substantially constant vent flow rate between the pressures of 4-30 cm of H₂O. It also may be desired to provide such a constant vent flow while minimizing vent noise, one solution may be to maximize the number of static non-membrane regulated vents and have the minimum number of membrane regulated vents that provide an average total vent flow that is substantially constant. This flow curve is shown by the thicker, solid line entitled “Passive vent only” in FIG. 19. In this example, the dashed line represents the static, non-membrane regulated

vents, while the thinner, solid line entitled “Combination of the CFV & passive vents” represents the combined vent flow. It is notable that the vent flow of the static vents progressively increases as pressure increases, while the CFV membrane regulated vents progressively decreases to a threshold.

[0311] Another cause of noise may be attributed to vent flow disturbances caused by the CFV membrane **9140** that may also impact the flow of air flowing through the static vents. In a related technology, the static vents were positioned proximal to the CFV membrane regulated vents, i.e., the vent holes were positioned on the same surface of the CFV housing **9120**. This led to noise being generated even for the non-regulated static vents as the membrane had impact on the flow characteristics of the static vent flow. Thus, it may be desirable to position the static vents away from the CFV membrane regulated vents such that the membrane **9140** does not impact the static vent flow therethrough. In an example of the present technology, the static vent holes are positioned on a distal surface from the CFV regulated vent holes. For example, the static vent holes may be positioned on a different component than the CFV housing **9120**. The positioning of the static vents may be restricted in that they may not be able to wash out CO₂ as well. The ability to washout CO₂ increases as the static vent holes are positioned closer to the patient. However, the static vent holes may also be positioned on an opposing side of the HMX relative to the patient to prevent loss of moisture during exhalation, as explained below.

5.4.1.1 Vent Housing

[0312] FIGS. **42A** to **42G** depict examples of a vent system **13400** according to an example of the present technology. The vent system **13400** includes a vent housing **13401** that may include an outer wall **13402** and the outer wall **13402** may define the outer periphery of the vent housing **13401**. The vent housing **13401** may also include an inner wall **13410** that may define an inlet for the flow of gas generated by the RPT device **4000** and directed into the plenum chamber **3200** and toward the patient for therapy. As can be seen, the outer wall **13402** and the inner wall **13410** are formed as concentric circles in this example.

[0313] Positioned between the outer wall **13402** and the inner wall **13410** is a base. The base may further comprise an outer base **13403** and an inner base **13406**. The outer base **13403** may extend from the inner periphery of the outer wall **13402** and the inner base **13406** may extend from the outer periphery of the inner wall **13410**. As can be seen, the outer base **13403** and the inner base **13406** are also formed as concentric circles in this example.

[0314] The outer base **13403** may include one or more outer orifices **13404** distributed radially around the outer base **13403**. These outer orifices **13404** may extend entirely through the outer base **13403** to provide a flow path from the interior of the vent system **13400** to atmosphere. The outer orifices **13404** may be straight, i.e., perpendicular to the outer base **13403**, or the outer orifices **13404** may pass through the outer base **13403** with a curved path or a slanted path. The diameter of the outer orifices **13404** may be constant along their length or the diameter may be varied. The outer orifices **13404** may all be identical or some may be different from others. The edges of the outer orifices **13404** may have a chamfer or a fillet. The outer base **13403** may at least partially support the membrane **13430** to prevent the membrane **13430** from completely occluding the inner orifices **13407**. Accordingly, the outer base **13403** may extend higher up than the inner base **13406**, as can be seen in FIGS. **42A** to **42G**.

[0315] The vent housing **13401** may also include lateral membrane supports **13405** distributed about the outer base **13403** and the inner periphery of the outer wall **13402**. The lateral membrane supports **13405** may abut and prevent the membrane **13430** from moving laterally during use, thereby covering the outer orifices **13404**. As will be explained below, it may be desirable not to obstruct the outer orifices **13404** so that the vent system **13400** will be able to maintain a substantially constant vent flow rate over a large proportion of the range of typical therapeutic pressures. Therefore, the lateral membrane support **13405** may protrude radially inward beyond the edges of the outer orifices **13404**. The lateral membrane supports **13405** may be semi-circular, as in

FIGS. 42A to 42G. In the examples depicted in FIGS. 42A to 42G, the outer orifices **13404** are distributed evenly in groups of three between adjacent lateral membrane supports **13405** about the circumference of the outer base **13403**.

[0316] The vent housing **13401** may also have a circular shape. However, the vent housing **13401** may also be shaped elliptically or the vent housing **13401** may have a polygonal shape, such as a triangle, a square, a rectangle, a pentagon, a hexagon, etc. In any of these configurations, the membrane **13430** may be shaped to correspond with the shape of the vent housing **13401**.

[0317] The inner base **13406** may be positioned radially inward of the outer base **13403** and the inner base **13406** and the outer base **13403** may be joined by base connectors **13408** distributed radially therebetween. Between adjacent base connectors **13408** and between the inner base **13406** and the outer base **13403** there are one or more inner orifices **13407**. The inner orifices **13407** in these examples are shaped as slots with an arc-shaped cross-section. However, it is envisioned that the inner orifices **13407** may be circular holes, similar to the outer orifices **13404**. The inner orifices **13407** extend completely through the vent housing **13401** between the inner base **13406** and the outer base **13403**. As will be explained below, it may be desirable to allow the inner orifices **13407** to be at least partially obstructed by the membrane **13430** to allow the vent system **13400** to maintain a substantially constant vent flow rate over a large proportion of the range of typical therapeutic pressures. The edges of the inner orifices **13407** may have a chamfer or a fillet.

[0318] The inner base **13406** of the vent housing **13401** may also include several membrane spacers **13409**. The membrane spacers **13409** may be evenly distributed radially about the inner base **13406**. As shown in FIGS. 42A to 42G, the membrane spacers **13409** may be located on the edge of the inner base **13406** so as to fade into the inner wall **13410**. The membrane spacers **13409** are provided to at least partially support the membrane **13430**, as will be described in greater detail below. The membrane spacers **13409** may extend from the inner base **13406** in a semi-cylindrical shape or in a rectangular shape, as in FIGS. 42A to 42G. The edges of the membrane spacers **13409** may have a chamfer or a fillet.

[0319] The vent housing **13401** may also include one or more recesses **13415** spaced around the opposite side of the outer base, as can be seen in FIGS. 42A to 42G. The recesses **13415** may be separated by recess dividers **13414**. The outer orifices **13404** may extend through the outer base **13403** and open into the corresponding recesses **13415** and multiple outer orifices **13404** may open into a single recess **13415**.

[0320] In an alternative example, the vent housing **13401** may only include one group of orifices that are analogous to the inner orifices **13407** described above in that the vent flow passing therethrough can be restricted by the membrane's **13430** position. Accordingly, there may also be another group of orifices provided elsewhere on the patient interface **3000** that are analogous to the outer orifices **13404** described above in that the vent flow passing therethrough is not restricted by the membrane **13430**, regardless of the membrane's **13430** position. The latter group of orifices that are not restricted by the membrane **13430** may be placed on any of the plenum chamber **3200**, the seal-forming structure **3100**, the decoupling structure **3500**, the vent connector tube **4180**, or other component that is closer to the patient than the vent housing **13401**. It is envisioned that the principles of operation of the vent systems **13400** described above will apply to such an alternative arrangement, but the ability to locate the orifices that are not restricted by the membrane **13430** closer to the patient may improve the discharge of exhaled CO₂.

[0321] The vent housing **13401** may be made from a single, homogeneous piece of material. The material of the vent housing **13401** may be relatively rigid. The material of the vent housing **13401** may be polycarbonate.

5.4.1.2 Membrane

[0322] FIGS. 43A to 43G also depict views of an exemplary membrane **13430** with the vent system **13400** and positioned adjacent to the vent housing **13401**. The exemplary membrane **13430** may be used with any of the various vent housing **13401** configurations disclosed above. The membrane

13430 may be in the shape of a flat, circular disk. In other words, the thickness of the membrane **13430** (see FIGS. **43F** and **43G**) may be small relative to its outer diameter. The thickness of the membrane **13430** may be uniform throughout, as shown in FIGS. **43F** and **43G**. Alternatively, the thickness of the membrane **13430** may be variable in a radial direction.

[0323] The membrane **13430** includes a membrane opening **13431** such that when assembled onto the vent housing **13401**, the flow of air through the inlet **13411** also passes through the membrane opening **13431** and along to the patient. The membrane **13430** also includes a patient-side surface **13432** that faces towards the patient in use and an atmosphere-side surface **13433** opposite the patient-side surface **13432** that faces towards the atmosphere in use. Additionally, the atmosphere-side surface **13433** faces towards the vent housing **13401** when assembled. The membrane **13430** also includes an inner surface **13434** that defines the membrane opening **13431** and an outer surface **13435** that is opposite the inner surface **13434**.

[0324] The inner radius, i.e., the radius of the inner surface **13434**, and the outer radius, i.e., the radius of the outer surface **13435**, may be selected such that the membrane **13430** can be located over the inner orifices **13407** in use without covering the outer orifices **13404**. Also, the inner radius and the outer radius may be selected such that the membrane **13430** covers a substantial portion of the inner base **13406** while being supported on the membrane spacers **13409** proximal to the inner surface **13434** and on the outer base **13403**.

[0325] The membrane **13430** may be made from a single piece of homogeneous material. The material maybe elastically deformable such that the membrane **13430** can be deflected in use by the pressure from the flow of air. The material may be silicone. The membrane **13430** may be “tuned” to deform in a desired manner by altering one or more of its thickness, length, material, shape, inner radius, and/or outer radius.

5.4.1.3 Constant Flow Rate Vent System

[0326] FIGS. **43A** to **43G** depict several views of exemplary vent systems **13400** with the membrane **13430** assembled with the vent housing **13401**. In FIGS. **43A** to **43G**, the inner wall **13410** does not extend above the inner base **13406**. In the examples where the inner wall **13410** extends upward from the inner base **13406**, the inner wall **13410** may provide a baffle function that separates the flow of gas traveling into the vent system **13400** via the inlet **13411** from the vent flow exiting the vent system **13400**, which in turn may reduce the amount of flow traveling in from the inlet **13411** and then directly out of the vent system **13400**.

[0327] In the examples of FIGS. **43A** to **43G**, a portion of the membrane **13430** proximal to the outer surface **13435** can be seen supported on an inner portion of the outer base **13403**. Also, a portion of the membrane **13430** proximal to the inner surface **3434** can be seen supported just above the membrane spacers **13409**. However, the membrane **13430** may deform towards the membrane spacers **13409** by virtue of its own weight such that the membrane **13430** is also supported on the membrane spacers **13409** even though there may not be any air pressure causing the deformation.

[0328] FIGS. **43A** to **43G** also show the membrane's **13430** location constrained by the lateral membrane supports **13405**. As explained above, the membrane **13430** may be shaped and dimensioned to cover only the inner orifices **13407** and not the outer orifices **13404**. However, the membrane **13430** may not be directly attached to the vent housing **13401** and, as such, may be free to move. Therefore, a sufficient number of lateral membrane supports **13405** can prevent lateral movement of the membrane **13430** so that the membrane **13430** cannot cover one or more of outer orifices **13404** in use.

[0329] The inverse of these examples is also envisioned in which the outer orifices **13404** may be covered by the membrane **13430** and the inner orifices **13407** are not blocked by the membrane **13430**. Accordingly, lateral membrane supports **13405** may be provided to prevent the membrane **13430** from covering the inner orifices **13407**.

[0330] As explained above, the exemplary vent systems **13400** may include a membrane **13430**

positioned over the inner orifices **13407** to at least partially restrict the flow of gas through the inner orifices **13407**, while the vent flow through the outer orifices **13404** is not restricted by the membrane **13430**.

[0331] It should also be understood that the features of the vent system **13400** described in sections 5.4.1.1 to 5.4.1.3 may be incorporated into any of the vent adaptors **9100** disclosed in section 5.4.5.

5.4.2 Vent Diffuser

[0332] The vent adaptor **9100** may also comprise a portion for housing a diffuser **9146**. The diffuser **9146** may be removable for replacement. The diffuser **9146** may have an annular disc shape that complements the shape of the annular surface of the vent housing **9120** on the side facing the atmosphere, i.e., external to the inlet flow. The diffuser **9146** may cover the vent holes **9125** and may diffuse the vent flow after it exits the plurality of vent holes **9125**. That is, the vent flow flowing through moulded vent holes **9125** may flow through the diffuser **9146** prior to reaching the atmosphere.

[0333] The diffuser **9146** may also act as a sound absorbent material to reduce some of the noise generated by the CFV membrane **9140** regulated and static vents.

[0334] FIG. **26** illustrates a cross-section through some of the orifices **3402**. The orifices **3402** are illustrated as holes through a wall **3404** of the plenum chamber **3200**. However, the orifices **3402** may be located in locations other than the wall **3404**. For example, the orifices **3402** may be located between the decoupling structure **3500** and the connection port **3600** or in a portion of the air circuit **4170**, preferably near the connection port **3600** or in the vent adaptor **9100**. The holes are illustrated with a diameter that is smaller than an axial length of the hole. The length and/or diameter may be chosen so that an appropriate flow rate is generated when the plenum chamber **3200** is pressurized to the therapy pressure. The flow through the orifices **3402** may be choked (e.g. a Mach number of 1) at the therapy pressure (e.g. at 4 cmH.sub.2O or greater pressure) or the flow may generate less than sufficient pressure drop to be choked. A choked flow may result in substantially all of the pressure drop in the vent **3400** being caused by the orifices **3402**. The arrows conceptually illustrate direction of flow when the plenum chamber **3200** is pressurized above ambient pressure.

[0335] The orifices **3402** are formed through a thickness of material of the wall **3404**. Each of the orifices **3402** defines an axis, e.g., along a center of the orifice. The axis forms an acute angle with a normal to a surface of the wall **3404**. The angle may be between 15 and 75 degrees or between 30 and 60 degrees, including any integer within the stated ranges. For example, the angle may be about 45 degrees.

[0336] The orifices **3402** are covered by a diffusing member **3406** so that flow exiting the orifices **3402** impinges on and flows at least partially into the diffusing member **3406**. The diffusing member **3406** may be formed from a material, such as a porous material, that allows gas to flow through the material but diffuses any jet or other flow formation exiting the orifices **3402**. Some suitable examples of diffusing material include a non-woven fibrous material; a woven fibrous material; or an open cell foam material. The diffusing material may be similar to or the same as a filter media. The diffusing member **3406** may reduce perceptible noise generated by the vent **3400** in use (e.g., when therapy pressure is applied).

[0337] The diffusing member **3406** is illustrated as covered by a blocking member **3408** that prevents gas from flowing out of the orifices **3402** and directly through the diffusing member **3406**. The blocking member **3408** may be constructed, at least in part, from an air-impermeable material. The air-impermeable material may be any suitable flexible or rigid material. For example, the air-impermeable material may be a rigid plastic (e.g., molded polycarbonate) or a flexible plastic (e.g., a plastic commercially available in sheet form). The blocking member **3408** may be formed integrally with the diffusing member **3406**, formed separately but permanently affixed to the diffusing member **3406**, formed separately and in removable contact with the diffusing member **3406**, or combinations thereof. The blocking member **3408** is illustrated as opposite the outlet

orifices **3402** with respect to a thickness of the diffusing member **3406**.

[0338] The blocking member may cause the flow to change direction (with respect to the direction through the orifices **3402**) before exiting the diffusing member **3406**. The blocking member **3408** and/or diffusing member **3406** may be configured so that flow out of the orifices **3402** must flow at least a predetermined distance through the diffusing member **3406** prior to exiting to ambient atmosphere. The blocking member **3408** may also be configured to provide a particular direction and/or orientation for flow exiting the vent **3400** to minimize any disturbance to the wearer and/or bed partner caused by the flow. For example, the blocking member **3408** may cause gas to flow through the diffusing member **3406** and generally parallel to a surface of blocking member **3408** nearest to the diffusing member **3406**.

[0339] In FIG. **26**, the orifices **3402** and the diffusing member **3406** are oriented relative to one another such that a central axis of each of the orifices is not perpendicular to a nearest surface of the diffusing member **3406**, although a perpendicular arrangement could also be provided as illustrated in FIG. **8**.

[0340] Channels **3410** may also be provided on an outer surface of the wall **3404**. The channels **3410** are illustrated with a V-shaped cross-section but could be formed with any suitable cross-section such as a U-shape. The channels **3410** may be configured to allow liquid to drain away from one or more outlets of the orifices **3402**. The orifices **3402** may be formed in a leg of the V-shape or U-shape.

[0341] FIG. **27** illustrates an alternate configuration of the blocking member **3408**. In FIG. **27**, the blocking member **3408** includes holes **3412**. The holes **3412** may direct the flow out of the diffusing member **3406** on the opposite side from the orifices **3402** but in a different direction. Thus the flow path is not straight through the orifices **3402** and the diffusing member **3406**. Although the arrows associated with the holes **3412** are illustrated parallel, this is for ease of illustration only. The holes **3412** may be configured to redirect the flow in multiple directions.

[0342] The holes **3412** each define an axis that is neither aligned with nor parallel to an axis defined by each of the orifices **3402**. When viewed in the cross-section of FIG. **27**, any one axis defined by a hole **3412** and any one axis defined by an orifice **3402** forms an angle. The angle may be between 15 and 75 degrees or between 30 and 60 degrees, including any integer within the stated ranges. For example, the angle may be about 45 degrees.

[0343] FIGS. **28-30** illustrates an alternate configuration of the vent **3400**. FIG. **28** illustrates a partially exploded view, FIG. **29** illustrates a simplified assembled view and FIG. **30** illustrates a cross-sectional view taken along line **30-30** of FIG. **29**. In these figures, the orifices **3402** are illustrated in a circular array around a central hole **3414**. The circular array is illustrated to include three circular rows of holes where the two inner-most circular rows are closer together than the outer-most circular row, but any number of circular rows may be provided and a spacing between the rows may be equal. The central hole **3414** allows for fluid communication between the plenum chamber **3200** and the connection port **3600** and thus the air circuit **4170**. The diffusing member **3406** and the blocking member **3408** are also illustrated as being disposed around the central hole **3414**. With this configuration, the blocking member **3408** may be removably attached (e.g., a removable snap fit or threaded engagement) or fixedly attached (e.g., permanent adhesive or a snap fit that must be broken to disassemble) and the diffusing member **3406** may be fixed to the blocking member **3408** or not fixed to but retained by the blocking member **3408**. As best viewed in FIG. **29**, radial openings **3416** are provided for gas to escape the diffusing member **3406** radially outward from the central hole **3414**.

[0344] FIGS. **31A** to **31C** illustrate another alternate configuration of the vent **3400**. FIG. **31A** illustrates a partial view of a flow passage in the form of an elbow **3418**, which may be disposed between a decoupling structure **3500** and connection port **3600**, and includes a vent **3400**. This configuration largely conceals the features of the vent **3400** and thus the remaining description is with respect to FIGS. **31B** and **31C**.

[0345] FIG. 31B illustrates an axial view with the cap 3422 and diffusing member 3406 omitted. This provides a clear view of the outlet orifices 3402. Two annular rows, each including forty of the outlet orifices 3402 are illustrated. The orifices are offset so that the outlet orifices 3402 in the inner row and the outer row are not radially aligned. This configuration may allow for annular rows to have closer radial spacing. Although two rows are illustrated, any number of rows may be provided, for example one row or three or more rows. Although forty outlet orifices 3402 are illustrated in each annular row, more or less may be provided as required to maintain appropriate levels of gas washout. For example, one, five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty five, thirty, thirty five, forty, forty five, fifty or more outlet orifices 3402, or any number in between, may be provided per annular row.

[0346] In FIG. 31C, the annular array of orifices 3402 are visible in the cross-section through a wall 3420. The wall 3420 is similar to wall 3404 except that the wall 3420 is illustrated remote from the plenum chamber 3200; however, the wall 3420 may be part of the plenum chamber 3200.

[0347] The diffusing member 3406 is illustrated as a ring-shape with a rectangular cross-section. The blocking member 3408 is illustrated as a relatively thin, sheet-like ring on a side of the diffusing member 3406 opposite the orifices 3402. The blocking member 3408 may be affixed to the diffusing member 3406 by any suitable means, for example by adhesive.

[0348] A cap 3422 is illustrated covering the diffusing member 3406 and the blocking member 3408. The cap 3422 may be in contact with the blocking member 3408 such that the diffusing member 3406 is compressed against the wall 3420. Alternatively, the diffusing member 3406 may not be compressed against the wall 3420. The cap 3422 may serve as the blocking member 3408, in which case the ring-shaped blocking member 3408 illustrated in FIG. 31C may be omitted.

[0349] The cap 3422 may include an angled, annular flange 3424 that may be spaced away from the wall 3420 to form an annular gap 3426. The annular flange 3424 may also be considered skirt-like or frusto-conical. The annular gap 3426 may provide a flow path to ambient atmosphere such that the flow of gas washout is not overly restricted. Alternatively, one or more openings (such as radial opening 3416) may be provided in the annular flange 3424 to provide a flow path to ambient atmosphere, which may also allow for elimination, in whole or in part, of the annular gap 3426.

[0350] The cap 3422 is illustrated with an annular groove 3428 mated with an annular protrusion 3430 to hold the cap 3422 in place. The annular protrusion may be continuous to form a snap fit or may be multiple, annularly spaced annular protrusions to provide a configuration that allows for minimal or no interference upon axial insertion followed by a twist to provide axial interference and hold the cap 3422 in place. In FIG. 31C, the annular protrusion 3430 is illustrated as three annularly spaced annular protrusions. A lip 3432 of the annular groove 3428 may be omitted in three corresponding locations and sizes to provide for reduced or no interference of the cap 3422 during the axial insertion. Other forms of attachment are possible. For example, a threaded fastening arrangement may be provided, the cap 3422 may be held in place with adhesive or welding. Releasable fastening such as the illustrated configuration or a threaded connection may allow for the diffusing member 3406 to be replaced if, for example, the diffusing member becomes damaged, clogged or dirty.

[0351] Although the vent 3400 is illustrated on one side of the bend (e.g., upstream with respect to an exhalation direction) in the elbow 3418, the vent 3400 may be upstream or downstream of the bend.

[0352] FIGS. 32A to 32C illustrate another alternate configuration of the vent 3400. Like reference numbers are similar to those described above and thus further description is omitted except as noted below. The vent 3400 in these figures is formed around an example of the decoupling structure 3500 that includes a ball 3434 and socket 3436 that are part of an elbow 3418. In the form illustrated here, the ball 3434 and socket 3436 allow three degrees of rotational freedom. However, fewer degrees of rotational freedom are possible, e.g., one or two degrees of rotational freedom.

[0353] As best viewed in FIG. 32D, the cap 3422 is connected by way of a snap fit connection

3438 with a first half **3440** located on the cap **3422** and a second half **3442** on the mating component. Six each of the first half **3440** and second half **3442** are provided between six of the radial openings **3416**, three of which are visible in FIG. **32A**. However, more or less may be provided as necessary to provide adequate retention and/or flow rate.

[0354] As best seen in FIG. **32C**, forty-four orifices **3402** are illustrated equally spaced in a single annular row. However, the number and spacing of the orifices **3402** may take other configurations. For example, fewer orifices **3402** may be provided if, for example, lower flow rate is required or more orifices **3402** may be provided if, for example, greater flow rate is required. And as explained above, more rows may be provided. Also, the orifices need not be in an annular array. If, for example, the orifices are located other than in the illustrated location, the orifices may be arranged in a grid based on Cartesian coordinates. Alternatively, the orifices **3402** need not be in any type of row and may be located in random or pseudo random locations.

5.4.3 Heat and Moisture Exchanger (HME)

[0355] Heat and moisture exchangers (HMEs) may comprise materials that have water retaining properties. Respiratory pressure therapy (RPT) can result in drying of the airways causing breathing discomfort in patients. To prevent this, a humidifier may be used in conjunction with a respiratory pressure device to deliver humidified air to the patient. This added humidifier may increase the size and power requirements of RPT devices.

[0356] It is known that patient's generate a level of humidified air upon exhalation, which comes from the mucosa of the airways. HMEs can be used to recycle this exhaled moisture by capturing humidity from humidified air upon exhalation then redelivering this to the patient. One challenge in the use of HMEs is their efficacy (i.e., being able to capture enough heat and moisture) and their impact on therapy (i.e., the HME may be placed in the flow circuit and therefore cause flow impedance).

[0357] To improve efficacy, an aspect is to reduce any losses of heat and moisture that is captured by the HME. A problem with the use of HMEs in RPT may be that heat and moisture expired by the patient is lost through venting prior to reaching the HME. In order to minimize such losses, the HME may be placed proximal to the patient's airways (i.e., the source of humidity) and place the vent on an opposing side of the HME, i.e., away from the patient. This configuration may ensure that expired humidified gases flow through the HME such that moisture is captured by the HME prior to exiting through the vent. The vent adaptor may be configured such that the HME is positioned between the patient's airways and the constant flow vent.

[0358] The vent adaptor may also comprises an HME unit that is removable. That is, the vent adaptor can be used with or without the HME. The HME unit may comprises a housing that holds the HME in place. The housing can be opened (the housing may comprises a front and rear component) to remove the HME.

[0359] The HME may be designed to maximize surface area per unit volume for heat and moisture exchange. In addition, the HME may also be designed to decrease its impact on flow impedance. The design may comprises a plurality of corrugations to allow flow to pass through said corrugations. The HME may be formed as a coiled layer of HME material comprising the corrugations.

[0360] As described above, the CFV may reduce flow wastage by regulating vent flow to a level that is above but close to the minimum required vent flow rate. As flow wastage is reduced, the level of humidity loss in the therapy system may also be reduced. It is known in the art that patients expire humidified air, which may in turn cause drying of the mucosa. Applying RPT treatment for SDB may exacerbate this drying. Thus, reducing the amount of flow required to achieve therapeutic pressure and concurrently reducing the level of humidified air loss from the system may result in a reduction of mucosal drying.

[0361] One way to increase the level of humidified air delivered to the patient is by the use of a powered humidification. Another way to humidify the air delivered to the patient is by the use of

heat and moisture exchangers (HME), which capture the water vapours in air such that they may be delivered back to the patient. An HME can be utilized to capture the humidity from patient expiration, which in turn can redeliver this humidity back to the patient. The HME should be positioned that it captures enough humidity from expired gas flow, as shown in FIG. 17, but allows this humidity to be redelivered through therapy flow. To ensure that captured humidity from expired gas flow is maximized, the HME should be placed between the patient and the vent. If the vent were to be placed between the patient and the HME, it would lead to the humidity in the expired gas flow being vented prior to reaching the HME for capture and redelivery. However, the configuration shown in FIG. 17 can also result in humidity being lost through venting via therapy flow going through the HME then directly out the vent (prior to patient delivery). This flow has been labelled “HME vent flow” in FIG. 17. The HME vent flow becomes more of an issue when the flow rate of the therapy increases. As shown in the graph in FIG. 18, the flow rate may increase as mask pressure increases. This flow may be increased to compensate for vent flow losses. When the flow rate increases, the velocity of the therapy flow increases, which may cause the therapy flow to penetrate the HME deeper. Some of this penetrating flow is delivered to the patient, however, a portion of this flow may also be directed to the vent prior to patient delivery (as shown by the HME vent flow). Therefore, the HME vent flow may also result in humidity losses by drying the HME.

[0362] As shown in the graph in FIG. 18, the CFV may reduce the vent flow rate over the same pressure range as compared to the standard FFM nom flow vent. This reduction in flow may reduce the HME vent flow, thereby reducing humidity losses. In other words, less flow occurs at the same pressures in the CFV system when compared to the standard vent system, consequently reducing the HME vent flow. This reduction in HME vent flow enhances the capability of the HME to capture and redeliver humidity from the expired gas flow thereby synergistically enhancing the HME effect to reduce mucosal drying.

[0363] Another way of reducing the HME vent flow may be to redirect the flow direction such that less flow passes through the vent and is redirected back into the system. The redirection can be achieved by structures, e.g., baffles, positioned in the flow path between the HME and the vent such that less flow is directed out the vent into the atmosphere.

[0364] The present technology is capable of achieving near powered humidification levels without the use of powered humidification. Since powered humidification is no longer required, the flow generator may be simplified further, because it no longer requires a water reservoir and heating mechanism to deliver powered humidification to therapy flow. Therefore, both the CFV and the HME may allow a flow generator associated with the present technology to be effective in providing RPT treatment for OSA and other SDB, without the need to complex pressure/flow control and powered humidification, which may ultimately benefit the patient by providing a substantially smaller flow generator with less controls.

[0365] FIGS. 25A to 25D show examples of a HME according to the present technology. FIG. 25A shows a cross section of a HME 7000 comprising a corrugated structure 7002 comprising a plurality of corrugations 7030 between a substantially planar substrate top structure 7010 and a substantially planar substrate base structure 7020 to form a concertina layer 7001. The layer 7001 comprises a plurality of superior channels 7012 formed between a superior surface of the corrugated structure 7002 and the top structure 7010. In addition, the layer 7001 comprises a plurality of inferior channels 7022 between an inferior surface of the corrugated structure 7002 and the base structure 7020. The HME 7000 allows for a flow of breathable gas and expiratory gas to flow through the plurality of superior 7012 and inferior 7022 channels along a surface of the corrugated structure to exchange heat and moisture. Moisture is absorbed from the expiratory gas exhaled from a patient and retained in the material of the corrugated structure 7002. The material of the corrugations 7030, the top structure 7010, and/or the base structure 7020 may comprise paper or a paper based material that is able to absorb water and/or heat. The material of the corrugations

7030, the top structure **7010**, and/or the base structure **7020** may be porous, water-permeable, and/or air-permeable. The retained moisture may subsequently be redelivered to the patient by humidifying a flow of breathable gas delivered to the patient's airways. In other words, the flow of breathable gas delivered to the patient's airways may absorb moisture from the HME **7000**. FIG. 25B depicts the various dimensions of a HME according to these examples.

[0366] The plurality of corrugations **7030** increase the surface area of the corrugated structure **7002** that allows for an increase in active surface area for the exchange of heat and moisture occurring between the corrugated structure **7002** and the surrounding volume provided by the plurality of superior **7012** and inferior **7022** channels. The top structure **7010** and the base structure **7020** may also be formed from the same heat and moisture exchanging material as the corrugated structure **7022**. Alternatively, the top structure **7010** and/or the base structure **7020** may be formed of a rigid or semi-rigid material that does not absorb moisture to support the corrugated structure **7002**.

[0367] The humidification performance of the HME **7000** is dependent on the effective surface area of the HME **7000** provided in a fixed volume of space. The effective surface area is the surface area of the HME **7000** that is exposed to the flow of breathable gas flowing along the surface of the HME where heat and moisture exchange occurs. The surface area per unit volume of the HME **7000** can be adjusted by providing corrugations **7030** within the heat and moisture exchange portion of the HME **7000**. Furthermore, the surface area per unit volume may also be adjusted by modifying at least one of the fin thickness, pitch or height of the corrugations or flutes, which have an impact on the surface area per unit volume of the HME **7000**.

[0368] The HME **7000** may comprise a plurality of layers **7001** stacked along a vertical axis of the HME **7000**, as shown in FIG. 25C. The layers **7001** may be vertically stacked such that the base structure **7020** is stacked on top of the corrugated structure **7002** of an underlying adjacent layer **7001**. There may be also several layers **7001** of HME stacked in the horizontal direction. Having a number of layers **7001** comprising corrugated structures **7002** that are stacked along a vertical axis of the HME **7000** further increases the surface area per unit volume of the HME. This increased surface area within a predefined volume allows for increased efficiency in heat and moisture exchange of the HME **7000**. Furthermore, the layers **7001** may be compressed under a preload, as depicted in FIG. 25D, to increase the number of layers within a fixed volume to increase the surface area per unit volume. The preload is calculated by the formula:

$$[00001]P = 1 - \left(\frac{h_{\text{final}}}{h_{\text{start}}}\right)$$

where P is the Preload and h.sub.start is the corrugation or flute height prior to compression and wherein h.sub.final is the height of the corrugation post-compression.

[0369] Alternatively, the final three-dimensional shape of the HME **7000** may be formed by combining layers **7001** of different sizes and shapes to produce a HME **7000** of irregular shape adapted to fit within a plenum chamber **3200** of the patient interface **3000**. The layers **7001** may be laser cut to form the desired shape and size.

[0370] As shown in FIG. 25E, displaying an alternative example, the HME **7000** may be rolled from a single strip layer **7001** comprising a corrugated structure **7002** extending from the surface of the base structure **7020** to form a plurality of corrugations **7030**. The single strip layer **7001** may be rolled such that the upper folded portion **7031** of the corrugations **7030** engages the inferior surface of the base structure **7020**. This configuration ensures that the plurality of channels **7012** is maintained between each roll of the single strip layer **7001**.

[0371] As mentioned above, the CFV may reduce the vent flow rate over the same pressure range as compared to the standard FFM nom flow vent. This reduction in flow may reduce the HME vent flow, thereby reducing humidity losses. In other words, less flow occurs at the same pressures in the CFV system when compared to the standard vent system, consequently reducing the HME vent flow. This reduction in HME vent flow may enhance the capability of the HME to capture and redeliver humidity from the expired gas flow, thereby synergistically enhancing the HME effect to reduce mucosal drying.

[0372] The CFV membrane may allow the vent flow to be maintained at or above the minimum required level within the therapeutic pressure range and may also regulate the vent flow to below that which would occur with a standard static vent. Thus, CO₂ washout would always remain at sufficient levels. The vent flow may be tuned such that it allows the minimum level required of CO₂ washout. This would result in the vent flow being minimized, which would in turn minimize the loss of moisture from the HME.

[0373] Another way of reducing the HME vent flow is to redirect the flow direction such that less flow passes through the vent and is redirected back into the air delivery circuit. That is, the flow may be redirected such that it minimizes HME vent flow, wherein flow penetrates the HME and then flows directly out of the vent. The redirection of flow can be achieved by structures, e.g., baffles, positioned in the flow path between the HMX and the vent such that less flow is directed out the vent into the atmosphere.

[0374] FIGS. 38A to 38C depict an example of an HME housing **9400** according to an example of the present technology. The HME housing **9400** may have a two-part construction that includes a patient-side HME housing portion **9402** and an atmosphere-side HME housing portion **9404**. The patient-side HME housing portion **9402** and the atmosphere-side HME housing portion **9404** may be assembled together to retain HME material therein. The patient-side HME housing portion **9402** may include a patient-side HME housing portion cross-bar **9406** to retain the HME material in an axial direction towards the patient in use and the atmosphere-side HME housing portion **9404** may include an atmosphere-side HME housing portion cross-bar **9408** to retain the HME material in an axial direction towards the atmosphere in use. The atmosphere-side HME housing portion **9404** may also include one or more openings **9410** that connect to corresponding tabs **9412** of the patient-side HME housing portion **9402** to join both portions together. The connection between the openings **9410** and the tabs **9412** may comprise a snap-fit and may be releasable to allow the HME housing **9400** to be disassembled so the HME material can be removed for cleaning or replacement.

[0375] FIGS. 39A to 39C depict another example of an HME housing **9400** according to an example of the present technology. The HME housing **9400** may have a two-part construction that includes a patient-side HME housing portion **9402** and an atmosphere-side HME housing portion **9404**. The patient-side HME housing portion **9402** and the atmosphere-side HME housing portion **9404** may be assembled together to retain HME material therein. The patient-side HME housing portion **9402** may include a patient-side HME housing portion cross-bar **9406** to retain the HME material in an axial direction towards the patient in use and the atmosphere-side HME housing portion **9404** may include an atmosphere-side HME housing portion cross-bar **9408** to retain the HME material in an axial direction towards the atmosphere in use. The atmosphere-side HME housing portion **9404** may also include one or more openings **9410** that connect to corresponding tabs **9412** of the patient-side HME housing portion **9402** to join both portions together. The connection between the openings **9410** and the tabs **9412** may comprise a snap-fit and may be releasable to allow the HME housing **9400** to be disassembled so the HME material can be removed for cleaning or replacement. The atmosphere-side HME housing portion **9404** may also include an atmosphere-side HME housing portion ring **9414** and extending from the atmosphere-side HME housing portion ring **9414** is an HME inner housing **9416** which may contain the HME material. The HME inner housing **9416** along with the patient-side HME housing portion **9402** and the atmosphere-side HME housing portion **9404** may form an HME bypass passage **9418** to allow a portion of the flow traveling through the HME housing **9400** to bypass the HME material.

5.4.4 Custom Connection

[0376] FIG. 6a illustrates a side view of a fluid connector **9000** with a first end **9002** and a second end **9004** mated with one another. A portion of a fluid conduit **9006**, which may be part of the air circuit **4170**, is connected to the second end **9004**. Instead of the fluid conduit **9006**, an adaptor or connector to a fluid conduit may be provided. An outlet of an RPT device **4000** may comprise a second end **9004** in some forms of the present technology.

[0377] The fluid connector **9000** may be configured to removably form a sealed connection to allow a flow of air to travel therethrough, such as from the RPT device **4000** to the patient interface **3000**. The fluid connector **9000** may comprise a plurality of components, such as a first end **9002** and a second end **9004**, which may be releasably connected to each other to make and/or break the sealed connection.

[0378] The first end **9002** and the second end **9004** may form a pneumatic path therebetween via complementary sealing portions, and be retained to each other by complementary retaining portions that may be separate portions to the complementary sealing portions. Accordingly, each of the first end **9002** and the second end **9004** may comprise a separate sealing portion and a retaining portion, as is described in further detail elsewhere in the present document.

[0379] Where the sealing function and the retaining function are performed by separate complementary portions, each of the sealing and/or the retaining functions may be more readily optimised, to address one or more of competing design requirements. For example, where one pair of complementary portions function to seal and retain two components, formation of a tight seal may lead to a high frictional force, decreasing ease of connection and/or disconnection of the components.

[0380] Furthermore, where the usability of connection/disconnection is improved, the seal may not be as robust, such as in cases where the two components may be subject to forces and/or torques in varying directions and magnitudes. In the cases of a fluid connector such as those described in the present document, a patient wearing a patient interface **3000** may move about while asleep, or preparing to go to sleep, causing the fluid connector to be pulled and/or twisted in various directions.

[0381] Thus, one aspect of the present technology relates to a fluid connector **9000**, wherein the first end **9002** and the second end **9004** are connected to each other by complementary sealing portions and complementary retaining portions.

[0382] In one form, the first end **9002** and the second end **9004** may comprise complementary sealing portions to form an air seal when connected. The air seal may be configured to form and maintain a sealing engagement to allow a flow of air to travel therethrough. The sealing engagement may be sufficient to allow a pressurised flow of air to travel therethrough, such as at pressures between 4 cm H.sub.2O to 40 cm H.sub.2O to provide respiratory therapies.

[0383] In some forms, the first end **9002** and the second end **9004** may comprise complementary portions to retain the first end **9002** and the second end **9004**. The retaining portions may maintain the first end **9002** and the second end **9004** in sealing engagement with each other, such as by preventing accidental disengagement. The retaining portions may comprise latching mechanisms as will be detailed further in the present document.

[0384] FIG. **6b** illustrates a sectional view of the fluid connector **9000** where the first end **9002** and the second end **9004** are not connected to one another. In this view, a seal portion **9008** is visible. The seal portion **9008** may be formed from any material that is suitable for forming a seal in an air path of a device that provides breathing gas to a patient, for example, silicone. The seal portion **9008** extends around a first opening **9010**, which is illustrated as the interior of a first tube **9022**. A latching portion **9012**, which may be in the form of a recess, is provided in the first end **9002**. The latching portion **9012** may be provided on opposed sides as illustrated in FIG. **6b**, on a single side or all around a periphery of the first end **9002**. As illustrated, the latching portion **9012** is an undercut that is substantially perpendicular to a central axis of the first end **9002**. Other angles are possible depending on the retention force desired.

[0385] The second end **9004** includes a sealing surface **9016**. The sealing surface **9016** may be formed circumferentially around a second opening **9018** that is illustrated as the interior of a second tube **9020**. The sealing surface **9016** is illustrated as a substantially annular surface that extends radially and perpendicularly (i.e., at 90°) away from the second tube **9020**. This may result in the sealing surface **9016** being substantially perpendicular to a direction of the fluid flow from

the first end **9002** to the second end **9004**. However, the sealing surface **9016** could also extend outward at an angle such that the sealing surface **9016** is beveled. For example, the sealing surface could be at 85°, 80°, 75°, 70°, 65°, 60°, 55°, 50° or 45° angle, positive or negative, or any value in between. As can be seen in FIG. **6b**, the second tube **9020** may comprise an overhang portion **9034** that extends beyond the sealing surface **9016** towards the seal portion **9008**. This may result in the overhang portion **9034** of the second tube **9020** extending through the seal portion **9008** as illustrated in FIG. **6c**. It will be understood that the second tube **9020** need not comprise an overhang portion in some examples of the present technology.

[0386] The overhang portion may be configured to align the first end **9002** with the second end **9004** in one or more directions. The overhang portion **9034** may be configured to be inserted into a guide portion **9038** on the first end **9002** to act as a lead-in and align the second end **9004** with the first end **9002** in a radial (or transverse) direction. Thus the first end **9002** and second end **9004** may have a male/female relationship. Additionally, a stop **9030** may be provided to limit travel of the second tube **9020**, for example by abutting the overhang portion **9034** at the limit of travel. Although the overhang portion **9034** is shown as a tube, the overhang portion may not extend continuously around a circumference of the second end **9004**, as it would be internal to the seal created by the complementary sealing portions (seal portion **9008** and sealing surface **9016**). The overhang portion may extend only partially through the seal portion **9008**, such as in castellated extensions, tabs, ribs and the like.

[0387] With the configuration illustrated in FIG. **6c**, the interior flow path of the fluid connector **9000** defined by the first tube **9022**, second tube **9020** and stop **9030** may have very little flow restriction because the interior flow path is substantially the same as the interior of the fluid conduit **9006**, for example as evaluated in cross section shape and size. Thus the fluid connector **9000** may have negligible pressure drop when air is flowing through the fluid connector **9000** throughout a patient's breathing cycle and therapy pressure (e.g., at pressures between 4 cm H.sub.2O to 40 cm H.sub.2O).

[0388] The seal portion **9008** may include a portion that contacts the sealing surface **9016** in any form that is suitable for forming a face seal, such as by tangential contact therebetween. As illustrated, the seal portion **9008** contacts the sealing surface **9016** with a substantially frustoconical shape, which is similar to a bellows-shape or partial bellows-shape. Alternatively, a partial spherical, or partial toroidal surface may be provided on the seal portion **9008**. With any of these shapes, the seal portion **9008** may contact the sealing surface **9016** before the latching portion **9012** and complementary latching portion **9014** are fully or even partially engaged. Alternatively, the seal portion **9008** and sealing surface **9016** may be separated by a gap even after the latching portion **9012** and complementary latching portion **9014** are fully engaged. In this scenario, internal pressurization may cause the seal portion **9008** to move into contact with the sealing surface **9016** and form a seal.

[0389] The seal portion **9008** may comprise a resilient and compliant material such that it may deform under load, while maintaining its original configuration when the load is removed therefrom. The seal portion **9008** may be configured to be readily deformed under load to form and/or maintain a seal with the sealing surface **9016**. In some forms, the seal portion **9008** may comprise a membrane composed of silicone. The silicone membrane seal portion **9008** may be sufficiently compliant that it would deform to move into contact with the sealing surface **9016** due to the pressure caused by the air flow. The silicone membrane seal portion **9008** may additionally or alternatively be sufficiently compliant such that it would maintain a sealing engagement with the sealing surface **9016** even when compressed from its undeformed configuration.

[0390] The proposed configurations of the seal portion **9008** may provide a seal that is compliant with respect to a mating direction between the first end **9002** and the second end **9004** (e.g., leftwards in FIG. **6b**) and/or compliant in a direction radial to an axis defined by a direction of engagement between the first end **9002** and the second end **9004** (e.g., up and down in FIG. **6b**).

[0391] The force necessary to compress the seal portion **9008** (e.g. when compression is required to form and/or maintain a seal) may be sufficiently low so as to not be a significant compressive force. For example, the force required to compress the seal portion **9008** may be less than a force required to engage the latching portion **9012** with the complementary latching portion **9014**, such as to overcome any friction in connecting the second end **9004** and the first end **9002**. Alternatively, the force required to compress the seal portion **9008** may be less than half of the force required to engage the latching portion **9012** with the complementary latching portion **9014**. Alternatively, the force required to compress the seal portion **9008** may be less than one tenth of the force required to engage the latching portion **9012** with the complementary latching portion **9014**. Thus in a configuration where the seal portion **9008** contacts the sealing surface **9016** before the latching portion **9012** and complementary latching portion **9014** are fully engaged, a user may not encounter significant force that would be mistaken for full engagement. In some forms, any force caused by a compression of the seal portion **9008** for connection of the second end **9004** and the first end **9002** may be sufficiently small that it is substantially imperceptible to a user. That is, the force perceived by a user in a configuration wherein the seal portion **9008** is removed from the first end **9002** may be substantially identical to a configuration where the seal portion **9008** must be compressed for connection.

[0392] The shapes of the seal portion **9008** according to the present technology may provide a seal that is compliant opposite to a mating direction between the first end **9002** and the second end **9004** (e.g., rightwards in FIG. **6b**). This may allow for a seal portion **9008** that can seal with the sealing surface **9016** even if a gap exists between seal portion **9008** and sealing surface **9016** when the fluid connector **9000** is unpressurized. When pressure is provided to an interior of the fluid connector **9000** (e.g., to the first tube **9022**), the seal portion **9008** may expand towards and contact the sealing surface **9016** to form a seal. With this configuration, a user should not encounter any additional force when connecting the first end **9002** to the second end **9004** beyond the force necessary to engage the latching portion **9012** and complementary latching portion **9014**.

[0393] Although specific configurations of the seal portion **9008** are discussed above, other configurations are possible. For example, some forms of the seal portion **9008** may include an o-ring or a gasket material.

[0394] Either the seal portion **9008** or the sealing surface **9016** or both may be configured such that misalignment between the seal portion **9008** and sealing surface **9016** still results in a seal between the seal portion **9008** and the sealing surface **9016**. For example, the seal portion **9008** and/or the sealing surface **9016** may be configured to form a seal therebetween while allowing for a range of misalignments in radial (or transverse) and/or axial directions.

[0395] For example, the sealing surface **9016** may comprise an annular shape (as shown in FIG. **6H**) configured to form a face seal with a surface of the seal portion **9008** in a plurality of radial positions. That is, the seal portion **9008** and the sealing surface **9016** may form a seal therebetween although an axis of the first tube **9022** and an axis of the second tube **9020** may be misaligned, for example by 0.5 mm, 1 mm, 1.5 mm, 2 mm, 3 mm or 4 mm. In one form, the sealing surface **9016** may comprise a sufficiently wide annular portion such that the seal portion **9008** may be able to form a seal thereto.

[0396] The second end **9004** also includes a complementary latching portion **9014**. The complementary latching portion **9014** is illustrated as a cantilevered hook including a protrusion that mates or engages with the latching portion **9012**. As with the latching portion **9012**, the complementary latching portion **9014** may be provided on a plurality of (e.g. opposed) sides as illustrated in FIG. **6b** or on a single side. The complementary latching portion **9014** may be in the form of U-shaped or C-shaped cut-through as illustrated in FIG. **6d**. The complementary latching portion **9014** may be depressed to engage or disengage the complementary latching portion **9014** from the latching portion **9012** and allow engagement or disengagement between the first end **9002** and the second end **9004**. Although providing more than two of the complementary latching portion

9014 is possible, doing so may make it unnecessarily difficult to disengage the second end **9004** from the first end **9002**.

[0397] In combination, the stop **9030** and latching portion **9012** may define a predetermined distance (travel) that the second end **9004** can move with respect to the first end **9002** while the two ends are connected. For example, if a first axial distance between the stop **9030** and latching portion **9012** is greater than a second axial distance between an end of the second tube **9020** and the protrusion on the complementary latching portion **9014**, then the difference between the first axial distance and the second axial distance will define a predetermined amount of travel that is non-zero. If the first axial distance and the second axial distance are equal, then no travel will be possible. However, there may be benefits associated with a non-zero travel at least with respect to ease of manufacture because a non-zero travel will allow for manufacturing tolerance that may reduce cost. Thus it may also be beneficial for the seal portion **9008** to be configured to form a seal with the sealing surface **9016** with a worst case manufacturing tolerance and after a predetermined amount of wear and/or creep in the fluid connector **9000**. The shapes for the seal portion **9008** discussed above may allow for the seal portion **9008** to account for such a worst case scenario.

[0398] As best seen in FIG. **6b**, the second end **9004** may include an inner portion **9024** and an outer portion **9026** that are rotatably coupled to one another at an interface **9028**. The inner portion **9024** may include the seal portion **9008** and the outer portion **9026** may include the complementary latching portion **9014**. As illustrated, the inner portion **9024** is rigidly or fixedly connected to the fluid conduit **9006** such that the inner portion **9024** and the fluid conduit **9006** may rotate together with respect to the outer portion **9026**. At least a part of the fluid conduit **9006** may be overmolded onto the inner portion **9024** to form the rigid connection therebetween. In other forms, the fluid conduit **9006** may be friction fit, or interference fit into the inner portion **9024** so as to form a rigid connection.

[0399] As best viewed in FIG. **6d**, the outer portion **9026** may have an outer profile that has four sides but also have some features of a circle, which may be uniquely identifiable in comparison to a typical circular profile. The first end **9002** may include a complementarily shaped recess. Thus the first end **9002** includes a female portion and the second end **9004** includes a male portion.

Including male and female portions in the above form, or any other non-standard shape or configuration, may provide benefits. First, the fluid connector **9000** comprising non-standard shapes and/or configurations may not conform to industry standards (e.g., ISO 5356-1), which include use of a circular spigot including a lead-in taper, onto which a cuff (e.g. rubber) is inserted over. Although not confirming to an industry standard may seem counter intuitive, there may be benefits. For example, the fluid connector **9000** may be used to connect an RPT device and patient interface that are designed to operate optimally together. For example, if the RPT device provides a lower flow rate that can only be taken advantage of by a patient interface that is designed to operate with that lower flow rate, having a fluid connector **9000** that does not mate with an industry standard will ensure that only the correct RPT device and patient interface are used together.

Second, particularly with the illustrated profile, the first end and the second end **9004** may be mated with one another only in a predetermined number of relative orientations (e.g., four). The present four-sided shape also may provide well-defined sides that are easy to identify and grip for actuation of the complementary latching portion **9014**. Thirdly, a non-standard shape such as that described herein, or others, may allow a user to readily identify which end of a patient conduit **4170** may be a complementary connector to another connector, such as an outlet of the RPT device.

[0400] FIG. **6e** illustrates another example of a present technology, wherein a port **9032** is included in the first end **9002**. The port **9032** may be used to sense pressure downstream of a blower and outside of a housing of the blower, such as by sensing a pressure downstream of the RPT device. The port **9032** may be in fluid connection to the second end **9004** to determine a pressure of the air in the second opening **9018**.

[0401] In one form, the port **9032** may be in fluid communication with an interior of the second

opening **9018**, such as by forming a fluid connection to an opening in the interior of the seal portion **9008**. The opening in the interior of the seal portion **9008** may be in turn in fluid communication with a pressure tap **9036** to the second opening **9018**. Thus the first end **9002** and the second end **9004** may form two fluid connections therebetween when connected to each other. The port **9032** may provide an advantage of being able to measure pressure closer to a patient than if pressure is measured in the RPT device. Due to pressure losses inherent in internal fluid flow as well as possible leaks throughout the air path from the blower to the patient, measuring the pressure closer to the patient may provide a more accurate measurement than a pressure measure carried out further from the patient.

[0402] Also, the present arrangement allows for the second end **9004** to be rotated with respect to the first end **9002** while still maintaining two fluid connections (i.e. one to deliver the flow of air, another to measure pressure). This may be advantageous for allowing the fluid conduit **9006** to rotate with respect to the outer portion **9026**, thus reducing torque imposed on the fluid conduit and/or the outer portion **9026**. Furthermore, such a configuration may also allow a user to connect the first end **9002** and the second end **9004** in one of a plurality of rotational orientations to each other while maintaining the two fluid connections.

[0403] FIG. **6f** illustrates the first end **9002** integrated into an RPT device with the second end **9004** disconnected. FIG. **6g** illustrates the first end **9002** integrated into the RPT device with the second end **9004** connected.

[0404] Although the preceding description generally describes both halves of a connector system together, e.g., a first end **9002** and a second end **9004**, it is to be understood that the description of either half may be considered in isolation.

[0405] It may also be advantageous to ensure that the appropriate masks are used with the CFV membrane regulated vents. Masks according to examples of the present technology may be non-vented masks designed specifically to be compatible with the CFV membrane regulated venting described above. The system may be designed such that the flow generator is also compatible with the vent adaptor, meaning that the flow generator will be programmed to work with a mask system having a constant vent flow. That is, each mask type (nasal, pillows and full face), may connect to the same vent adaptor and, therefore, the vent adaptor should allow for enough CO₂ washout for each of the mask types. The lowest CO₂ washout is generally seen in the full face mask as there is an increase in the volume of mask dead space. Hence, the vent adaptor must allow for sufficient CO₂ washout for the full face mask (i.e., the worst case scenario). Since the system of the present technology, including the flow generator, vent adaptor, and each mask type, may be designed specifically to work together, it may be advantageous to prevent non-compatible masks from connecting to the CFV connector.

[0406] As such, a connection mechanism may be provided such that the seal formed between two detachably connecting components is achieved by the connection mechanism. As previously described, the nasal and pillows mask may connect to a short tube connector, which will then connect to the vent adaptor. In contrast, the full face mask may connect directly to the vent adaptor **9100**. In another example, the HME may comprise a separate detachable housing, which could be detached from the vent adaptor. However, to reduce overall size, the HME may be incorporated into the vent adaptor with the CFV unit, wherein the HME slides into the same housing as the CFV. Such a design means that when the HME is removed there may be an unused, empty space in the CFV housing of the vent adaptor **9100**.

[0407] In the full face version of a mask according to the present technology the short tube connector end may be formed as the inlet of the full face mask. That is, the same bellows engaging surface is designed as part of the mask shell, which may form part of the mask plenum chamber.

[0408] The bellows sealing membrane may be structured to move under pressure such that the membrane moves towards the sealing surface on the opposing connector. The pressure supported seal may mean that the seal between the CFV unit and the connector remains robust under high

pressures.

[0409] The bellows seal may allow for a seal to be formed between the CFV unit and the connector with minimal friction between the two components, which allows a swivel connection. For example, sealing using interference fit, a lip seal, a gasket configuration, or other forms of compression seals between the components may not allow for easy enough movement between the components such that the components can swivel, while maintaining a robust seal.

5.4.5 Exemplary Vent Adaptors

[0410] An example of a vent adaptor **9100** and its components are shown in FIGS. 7A-14D. The vent adaptor **9100** according to this example of the present technology may include a conduit connector **9110**, a vent housing **9120**, a vent diffuser cover **9130**, a membrane **9140**, a CFV ring **9150**, a vent housing connector **9160**, a heat and moisture exchanger (HME) clip **9170**, a HME housing **9180**, a bellows seal **9190**, and a vent adaptor connector **9200**.

[0411] The vent housing **9120** may include an end **9121** with protrusions **9122** to connect the vent housing **9120** to the conduit connector **9110** at a vent adaptor end **9112**. The end **9121** may define the central orifice of the vent housing **9120** through which the flow of pressurized gas is provided to the patient. The vent housing **9120** may include external vent holes **9125** and internal vent holes **9126** that define passageways for venting pressurized gas from the RPT system, i.e., gas may be discharged from the internal vent holes **9126**, through said passageways, to the external vent holes **9125**, and out to atmosphere. The vent housing **9120** may also include a tab **9123** joined to a lip **9124** via a support **9128** to releasably attach the vent housing **9120** to the vent housing connector **9160** and the vent adaptor connector **9200**. The patient may actuate the tab **9123** to depress the support **9128** such that the lip **9124** is disengaged from the vent housing connector **9160** and the vent adaptor connector **9200**. When attached, the lip **9124** allows the vent housing **9120** to rotate relative to the vent adaptor connector **9200** while remaining connected. The vent housing **9120** may also include a shoulder **9127** to fit into a corresponding notch **9164** of the vent housing connector **9160**. The vent housing **9120** may also include notches **9129** to receive corresponding bellows seal connectors **9191** that attach the bellows seal **9190** to the vent housing **9120** to seal the interior of the vent adaptor **9100** against the vent adaptor connector **9200** when assembled.

[0412] The vent housing connector **9160** may include a first bar **9161** and a second bar **9162** that form a receptacle **9163** that receives a corresponding lip **9124** of the vent housing **9120** to attach the vent housing connector **9160** to the vent housing **9120**. The notch **9164** also receives the shoulder **9127** of the vent housing **9120**, as described above. The vent housing connector **9160** may also include a curved outer surface **9165**.

[0413] The bellows seal **9190** may be a bellows seal similar to the features described above in relation to FIGS. 6A-6H. The bellows seal **9190** may have a shoulder surface **9194** with bellows seal connectors **9191** to attach the bellows seal **9190** to the notches **9129** of the vent housing **9120**. The bellows seal **9190** may also have an inner surface **9193** that is contacted by the pressurized gas and urged outward such that an outer surface **9192** forms a seal against the vent adaptor connector **9200** when assembled.

[0414] The vent adaptor connector **9200** may have an orifice **9201** through which pressurized gas passes from the vent adaptor **9100** and on to the patient during therapy. Also, the exhaled gas may be discharged into the vent adaptor **9100** via the orifice **9201**. The vent adaptor connector **9200** may be connected at the orifice **9201** to the patient interface via another tube (not shown). The vent adaptor connector **9200** may also have a rim **9202** to connect to the lip(s) **9124** of the vent housing **9120** to allow the vent housing **9120** to connect to and rotate relative to the vent adaptor connector **9200**. It should be understood that in another form of the present technology, the vent adaptor connector **9200** may be connected directly to the patient interface or it may be formed integrally with the patient interface, e.g., the mask shell.

[0415] The vent adaptor **9100** may also include an HME clip **9170** and an HME housing **9180** to retain HME material within the vent adaptor **9100** in a position that is between the internal vent

holes **9126** and the patient, as described above. The HME material (not shown) may be a coiled or cylindrical structure that is inserted into the HME housing **9180** and retained therein by the HME clip **9170**. The HME clip **9170** may have a pair of arms **9171** extending from a central shaft **9172**. The central shaft **9172** may extend through the center of the HME material to secure a shaft end **9173** into a receiver **9183** suspended on a cross-member **9182** of the HME housing **9180** to secure the HME material inside of the HME housing **9180**. The HME housing **9180** may also include a pair of slots **9181** in an outer wall **9184** that correspond to the arms **9171** and receive arm ends **9174** such that when assembled the HME clip **9170** does not rotate relative to the HME housing **9180**. Thus, the HME material would be secured between the arms **9171** and the cross-member **9182**. The outer wall **9184** may include a plurality of cut-outs **9185**.

[0416] The conduit connector **9110** may include the vent adaptor end **9112** and a conduit end **9111**. As explained above, the vent adaptor end **9112** may connect to the vent housing **9120** and the conduit end may be connected to a conduit (not shown) that is connected at the other end to an RPT device to receive a flow of pressurized gas. The conduit connector **9110** may also include anti-asphyxia valve (AAV) openings **9113**.

[0417] Another example of a vent adaptor **9100** and its components are shown in FIGS. 15A-15F. This example includes may features similar to the examples shown in FIGS. 7A-14D above. In this example, the vent adaptor connector **9200** includes a rim **9203** that connects to the tab **9123** of the vent housing **9120** to connect the vent adaptor connector **9200** to the vent housing **9120**. Also, this example shows an anti-asphyxia valve (AAV) **9135** that may installed in the conduit connector **9110**. The conduit connector **9110** may also have a ring **9115** to connect to a conduit (not shown). Also, in this example the bellows seal **9190** can be seen attached to the vent housing connector **9160**. The vent housing connector **9160** also has a ridge to allow for attachment to the vent housing **9120** by the tab **9123**. Furthermore, examples of HME material **9145** and the diffuser **9146** are shown.

[0418] Another example of a vent adaptor **9100** and its components are shown in FIGS. 21A-21F. This example includes may features similar to the examples shown in FIGS. 7A-14D and FIGS. 15A-15F above. In this example, the HME housing **9180** is not completely contained inside of the vent adaptor **9100**. Rather, it is exposed partially such that it forms part of the structure that connects the vent housing **9120** to the vent adaptor connector **9200**.

[0419] Another example of a vent adaptor **9100** and its components are shown in FIG. 22. This example includes may features similar to the examples shown in FIGS. 7A-14D and FIGS. 15A-15F above. FIG. 22 also includes a flap retaining structure **9141** that may be attached to the HME clip **9170** on one side and abut the flap **9140** on the other side to hold the flap **9140** in an operational position relative to the vent housing **9120**.

[0420] Another example of a vent adaptor **9100** and its components are shown in FIGS. 24A-24B. This example includes may features similar to the examples shown in FIGS. 7A-14D and FIGS. 15A-15F above.

[0421] FIG. 23 depicts a diagram of the ways the vent adaptor **9100** may be attached to different patient interfaces. In the case of the nasal cushion patient interface **3000A** or the nasal pillows patient interface **3000B**, the vent adaptor **9100** may be joined to either patient interface via a short tube **9210**. One end of the short tube **9210** may be joined to the patient interface **3000A**, **3000B** and the other end may be joined to the vent adaptor connector **9200** described above. Alternatively, in the case of the full face patient interface **3000C**, the vent adaptor **9100** does not include the vent adaptor connector **9200** and the vent adaptor **9100** is connected directly to the full face patient interface **3000C** such that no short tube **9210** is provided.

[0422] FIGS. 33A to 33G depict another example of a vent adaptor **9100** according to an example of the present technology. This vent adaptor **9100** may be connected to a patient interface **3000**, as shown in FIG. 35 for example, to provide the functions of its components.

[0423] The vent adaptor includes an elbow assembly **9220** to provide a fluid connection with the

patient interface **3000**, e.g., via a connection port **3600** on the plenum chamber **3200**. This example of the elbow assembly **9220** includes an elbow frame **9222** and an elbow overmould **9224**. The elbow assembly **9220** may provide a releasable connection with the plenum chamber **3200** at the connection port. The elbow frame **9222** may include tabs that are elastically deformable for the releasable connection and the elbow overmould **9224** may provide a fluid-tight seal around openings in the elbow frame **9222**, as well as added resiliency for the elbow frame **9222**. The elbow assembly **9220** may also be rotatable relative to the plenum chamber **3200** to reduce the effects of tube drag from the other components of the vent adaptor **9100** and the air circuit **4170**. The elbow assembly **9220** may also be removably connected to a patient interface **3000** and may be able to swivel relative to the patient interface **3000**.

[0424] The vent adaptor **9100** may also include a short tube assembly **9210**. The short tube assembly **9210** may decouple the other components of the vent adaptor **9110**, e.g., the vent housing **9320** and the vent core structure **9300**, from the elbow assembly's **9220** connection with the plenum chamber **3200**. By decoupling the other components of the vent adaptor **9110** in this manner, the mass that must be carried directly on the patient's head via the patient interface **3000** can be reduced, which in turn provides a lighter and more comfortable experience for the patient. The short tube assembly **9210** may include a tube **9212**, which may be comprised of one or more helical coils. The short tube assembly **9210** may include a tube-elbow connector **9216** to provide a connection with the elbow assembly **9220**. The connection between the tube-elbow connector **9216** and the elbow assembly **9220** may comprise a snap-fit. The connection between the tube-elbow connector **9216** and the elbow assembly **9220** may be permanent—in other words, the connection may not be separated without damaging the components. The short tube assembly **9210** may include a tube-housing connector **9214** to provide a connection with the vent housing connector **9160**. The connection between the tube-housing connector **9214** and the vent housing connector **9160** may comprise a snap-fit. The connection between the tube-housing connector **9214** and the vent housing connector **9160** may be permanent—in other words, the connection may not be separated without damaging the components.

[0425] The vent adaptor **9100** may include a vent housing connector **9160** to join the short tube assembly **9210** with the vent housing **9320**. As described above, the vent housing connector **9160** may be joined to the short tube assembly **9210** with the tube-housing connector **9214** that may be a snap-fit and that may be permanent. The vent housing connector **9160** may also include a bayonet connector **9166** to facilitate a releasable bayonet-style connection with the vent housing **9320** or a heat and moisture exchanger (HME) housing **9400** such as those shown in FIGS. **38A** to **39C**. Thus the HME associated with the HME housing **9400** may be optional and, as such, is not shown in FIGS. **33A** to **33G**. The bayonet connectors **9166** may be male or female. Also, making the vent housing **9320** removably connectable to the vent housing connector **9160** allows the vent components to be removed and disassembled for cleaning.

[0426] FIGS. **34A** to **34G** show examples of the vent housing **9320**, the flap or membrane **9140**, the vent core structure **9300**, the diffusing member **9146**, the diffuser retaining ring **9148**, and the vent diffuser cover **9330**. These components may be assembled into a sub-assembly, as shown in FIGS. **34A** to **34G**, and joined to the vent housing connector **9160** for use. The components of the sub-assembly depicted in FIGS. **34A** to **34G** may be inseparable via a permanent snap-fit or the components may be separable by the user. In the case of inseparability, the snap-fit may be permanent such that the components cannot be separated without damaging them.

[0427] The vent housing **9320** may also include bayonet connectors **9322** to correspondingly connect with the bayonet connectors **9166** of the vent housing connector **9160** to removably connect the vent housing **9320** to the vent housing connector **9160**. The vent housing **9320** may also include a membrane retainer **9324** to hold the membrane **9140** against the vent core structure **9300** when assembled. The membrane retainer **9324** may comprise an open, radial, and cage-like structure to allow the vent flow to travel through the membrane retainer **9324** for discharge by the

vent core structure **9300**. The membrane retainer **9324** may also be open in its center to allow the therapy flow to pass along to the patient from the RPT device **4000**.

[0428] The flap or membrane **9140** may be positioned between the membrane retainer **9324** and the vent core structure **9300**. The membrane **9140** may be held in position between these two structures, but may be otherwise be free to be deformed by pressure within the vent adaptor **9100**. The membrane **9140** may function similarly to other examples of the membrane **9140** disclosed above.

[0429] The vent core structure **9300** may include an inlet **9301** to allow the flow of gas generated by the RPT device **4000** to pass through the vent adaptor **9100** and along to the patient for therapy. The vent core structure **9306** may include a vent core extension **9306** through which the inlet **9301** may be defined. The vent core extension **9306** may extend axially and may include air circuit connectors **9302** to connect the vent core **9300** to the air circuit **4170**. As can be seen, the vent core extension **9306** is shaped and dimensioned to extend through the diffuser retaining ring **9148**, the diffuser **9146**, and the vent diffuser cover **9330** to align these components when the vent adaptor **9100** is assembled. The vent core structure **9300** may also include clips **9304** on an alignment structure **9312** that connect to the connection surface **9334** of the vent diffuser cover **9330**. The clips **9304** may be connected to the connection surface **9334** with a snap-fit to allow the vent diffuser cover **9330** to be removed for disassembly to allow cleaning and/or replacement of vent adaptor components **9100** such as the diffuser **9146**. The alignment structure **9312** may also facilitate axial alignment of the vent core structure **9300** with the diffuser **9146** and the vent diffuser cover **9330** by virtue of corresponding shapes.

[0430] The vent core structure **9300** may also include a plurality of outer orifices **9308** and a plurality of inner orifices **9310**. The plurality of inner orifices **9310** may be configured such that vent flow to atmosphere through the inner orifices **9310** may be obstructed or restricted by the membrane **9140** in use. The plurality of outer orifices **9308** may be configured such that vent flow to atmosphere through the outer orifices **9308** may not be obstructed or restricted at any point by the membrane **9140** in use. However, the membrane **9140** may also be configured such that it does not completely occlude the inner orifices **9310** at any pressure at least within a typical range of therapeutic pressure (e.g., between about 6 cmH₂O and about 20 cmH₂O). In other words, vent flow may be discharged through both the inner orifices **9310** and the outer orifices **9308** at any pressure within a typical range of therapeutic pressure, while the pressure within the vent adaptor **9110** deforms the membrane **9140** to vary the proportion of vent flow traveling through the outer orifices **9308** and the inner orifices **9310** so as to maintain a constant vent flow rate, as described above.

[0431] The diffuser **9146** may include a diffuser opening **9147** through which the vent core extension **9306** may pass. The diffuser **9146** may include similar features to the diffusers described above.

[0432] The diffuser **9146** may be held in position downstream of the inner orifices **9310** and the outer orifices **9308** relative to the vent flow by the diffuser retaining ring **9148** and the vent diffuser cover **9330**. The diffuser retaining ring **9148** may be secured to the vent diffuser cover **9330**, e.g., with a snap-fit, to retain the diffuser **9146**. The diffuser retaining ring **9148** may include radial diffuser retainers **9149** to hold the diffuser **9146** against the vent diffuser cover **9330**. The diffuser retaining ring **9148** and the radial diffuser retainers **9149** may define posterior vent outlets **9342** around the vent housing **9320**. Vent flow exiting the vent core structure **9300** may pass through the diffuser **9148** and out through the posterior vent outlets **9340**. The vent diffuser cover **9332** may include a series of cover spacers **9332** spaced radially about the vent diffuser cover **9330** to define the anterior vent outlets **9342**. Vent flow exiting the vent core structure **9300** may pass through the diffuser **9148** and out through the anterior vent outlets **9342**.

[0433] The exemplary vent adaptor **9100** disclosed above and in FIGS. 33A to 34G is shown connected to a patient interface **3000** in FIG. 35. The elbow assembly **9220** is excluded in this

example, because the plenum chamber **3200** includes a connection port **3600** that is angled so as to point in an inferior direction relative to the patient's head in use, thereby directing the vent adaptor **9100** away from the patient's head. Also, the short tube assembly **9210** may be permanently connected to the plenum chamber **3200** at the connection port **3600**.

[0434] FIGS. **37A** to **37E** depict another example of a vent adaptor **9100** according to the present technology. The vent adaptor **9100** may include a plenum chamber connector **9700** to connect the vent adaptor **9100** directly to the connection port **3600** of the plenum chamber **3200** and/or to a shroud **3305** thereof (see FIG. **41**) to provide a fluid connection for the flow of pressurized gas from the vent adaptor **9100** to the plenum chamber **3200**.

[0435] The vent adaptor **9100** may also include a baffle **9600**. The baffle **9600** may separate the incoming flow of pressurized gas from the RPT device **4000** from the outgoing vent flow exiting via the outer orifices **9308** and the inner orifices **9310** of the vent housing **9120**. The baffle **9600** may be positioned internally of the plenum chamber connector **9700**. The baffle **9600** and the plenum chamber connector **9700** may be aligned when connected to form concentric circles.

[0436] The vent adaptor **9100** may also include a lip seal **9500** that fits around the exterior periphery of the plenum chamber connector **9700**. The lip seal **9500** may form a seal with the interior periphery of the connection port **3600** of the plenum chamber **3200** and/or the shroud **3305** thereof to provide a pneumatic seal while allow rotation of the vent adaptor **9100** relative to the patient interface **3000**.

[0437] The vent adaptor **9140** may also include the flap or membrane **9140** to regulate the vent flow through the inner orifices **9310** and the outer orifices **9308** of the vent housing **9120** in accordance with the examples described above, e.g., the examples pictured in FIGS. **33A** to **34G**.

[0438] The vent housing **9120** may include inner orifices **9310** and outer orifices **9308** and these orifices may permit vent flow to exit the vent adaptor **9100** to atmosphere, as described in the examples above such as the examples of FIGS. **33A** to **34G**.

[0439] The vent housing **9120** may also include tabs **9123** and lips **9124** to provide a releasable and rotatable connection with the connection port **3600** of the plenum chamber **3200** and/or the shroud **3305** thereof. The tabs **9123** may be manually depressed to release the lips **9123** from a corresponding annular protrusion (not shown) of the connection port **3600** of the plenum chamber **3200** and/or the shroud **3305** thereof. When connected, the lips **9124** allow the vent adaptor **9100** to maintain a connection with the connection port **3600** of the plenum chamber **3200** and/or the shroud **3305** thereof while being rotatable to reduce the effects of tube drag.

[0440] The vent housing **9120** may be connected to a conduit connector **9110** that in turn may connect the vent adaptor **9100** to an air circuit. The conduit connector **9110** may be in the form of an elbow. The conduit connector **9110** may have a conduit end **9111** that connects to the air circuit **4170** and a vent adaptor end **9112** that connects to the vent housing **9120**. The connection between the vent adaptor end **9112** of the conduit connector **9110** and the vent housing **9120** may comprise a snap-fit, may be permanent such that the connection cannot be separated without damaging at least one of the components, and/or may be non-rotatable to prevent the conduit connector **9110** from contacting the tabs **9123**. The conduit connector **9110** may also include one or more anti-asphyxia valve (AAV) openings **9113** for the AAV **9135**.

[0441] The vent adaptor **9100** may also include an air circuit connector **9116** that may be attached to the conduit end **9111** of the conduit connector **9110**. The air circuit connector **9116** may include bayonet connectors **9117** to correspondingly connect to the connectors **4175** of the exemplary air circuit **4170** of FIGS. **36A** to **36C**. The connection between the air circuit connector **9116** and the air circuit **4170** may be releasable.

[0442] The vent adaptor depicted in FIGS. **37A** to **37E** may not include heat and moisture exchanger (HME) material **9145**. The absence of a heat and moisture exchanger material **9145** positioned within the vent flow path may minimise vent flow impedance, thereby minimising CO₂ build up within the plenum chamber **3200**. The depicted vent adaptor **9100** may be, for example,

suitable for use with a full face patient interface as depicted in FIG. 41.

[0443] The vent adaptor **9100** depicted in FIGS. 37A to 37E may form an elbow assembly that may be removably connected to a patient interface **3000**, e.g., as shown in FIG. 41, and may be able to swivel relative to the patient interface.

[0444] FIGS. 40 and 41 show further examples of vent adaptors **9100** joined to patient interfaces **3000**.

[0445] FIG. 40 depicts a patient interface **3000** with a seal-forming structure **3100** that forms a seal around only the patient's nose in use (i.e., a nasal mask). The vent adaptor **9100** is shown joined to a shroud **3305** that covers a portion of the plenum chamber **3200**. In this example, the vent adaptor **9100** features are combined in an elbow that is attached directly and rotatably to the shroud **3305** to provide a fluid connection with the plenum chamber **3200**. However, it should be understood that the vent adaptor of FIGS. 33A to 33G could be attached to the shroud **3305** to form a fluid connection with the plenum chamber **3200** via the elbow assembly **9220**. The shroud **3305** has rigidiser arms **3301** joined to the shroud **3305** at hinges **3307**. The lateral arms **3301** may include superior attachment points **3302** and inferior attachment points **3304** to attach straps of a positioning and stabilising structure **3300**. The superior attachment points **3302** may form loops through which superior straps can be passed and the inferior attachment points **3304** may receive clips **3306**, which in turn receive inferior straps.

[0446] FIG. 40 depicts an exemplary patient interface **3000** that may include a seal-forming structure **3100** to form a seal over the patient's nose and mouth in use. The vent adaptor **9100**, such as the example depicted in FIGS. 37A to 37E, may be connected to the shroud **3305** to provide a fluid connection with the plenum chamber **3200**. The shroud **3305** may be joined to rigidiser arms **3301** that may have superior attachment points **3302** to attach straps of a positioning and stabilising structure **3300**. The shroud **3305** may be connected to inferior strap connectors **3303** separate from the rigidiser arms **3301** to attach straps of a positioning and stabilising structure **3300** at inferior attachment points **3304**. The superior attachment points **3302** may form loops through which superior straps can be passed and the inferior attachment points **3304** may receive clips **3306**, which in turn receive inferior straps.

5.5 RPT Device

[0447] An RPT device **4000** in accordance with one aspect of the present technology comprises mechanical and pneumatic components **4100**, electrical components **4200** and is configured to execute one or more algorithms **4300**. The RPT device may have an external housing **4010**, formed in two parts, an upper portion **4012** and a lower portion **4014**. Furthermore, the external housing **4010** may include one or more panel(s) **4015**. The RPT device **4000** comprises a chassis **4016** that supports one or more internal components of the RPT device **4000**. The RPT device **4000** may include a handle **4018**.

[0448] The pneumatic path of the RPT device **4000** may comprise one or more air path items and mufflers **4120**, e.g., an inlet air filter **4112**, an inlet muffler **4122**, a pressure generator **4140** capable of supplying air at positive pressure (e.g., a blower **4142**), an outlet muffler **4124** and one or more transducers **4270**, such as pressure sensors and flow rate sensors.

[0449] One or more of the air path items may be located within a removable unitary structure which will be referred to as a pneumatic block **4020**. The pneumatic block **4020** may be located within the external housing **4010**. In one form a pneumatic block **4020** is supported by, or formed as part of the chassis **4016**.

[0450] The RPT device **4000** may have an electrical power supply **4210**, one or more input devices **4220**, a central controller **4230**, a therapy device controller **4240**, a pressure generator **4140**, one or more protection circuits **4250**, memory **4260**, transducers **4270**, data communication interface **4280** and one or more output devices **4290**. Electrical components **4200** may be mounted on a single Printed Circuit Board Assembly (PCBA) **4202**. In an alternative form, the RPT device **4000** may include more than one PCBA **4202**.

5.5.1 RPT Device Mechanical & Pneumatic Components

[0451] An RPT device may comprise one or more of the following components in an integral unit. In an alternative form, one or more of the following components may be located as respective separate units.

5.5.1.1 Air Filter(s)

[0452] An RPT device in accordance with one form of the present technology may include an air filter **4110**, or a plurality of air filters **4110**.

[0453] In one form, an inlet air filter **4112** is located at the beginning of the pneumatic path upstream of a pressure generator **4140**. See FIG. 4B.

[0454] In one form, an outlet air filter **4114**, for example an antibacterial filter, is located between an outlet of the pneumatic block **4020** and a patient interface **3000**. See FIG. 4B.

5.5.1.2 Muffler(s)

[0455] In one form of the present technology, an inlet muffler **4122** is located in the pneumatic path upstream of a pressure generator **4140**. See FIG. 4B.

[0456] In one form of the present technology, an outlet muffler **4124** is located in the pneumatic path between the pressure generator **4140** and a patient interface **3000**. See FIG. 4B.

5.5.1.3 Pressure Generator

[0457] In one form of the present technology, a pressure generator **4140** for producing a flow, or a supply, of air at positive pressure is a controllable blower **4142**. For example the blower **4142** may include a brushless DC motor **4144** with one or more impellers housed in a volute. The blower may be capable of delivering a supply of air, for example at a rate of up to about 120 litres/minute, at a positive pressure in a range from about 4 cmH.sub.2O to about 20 cmH.sub.2O, or in other forms up to about 30 cmH.sub.2O. The blower may be as described in any one of the following patents or patent applications the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety: U.S. Pat. Nos. 7,866,944; 8,638,014; 8,636,479; and PCT Patent Application Publication No. WO 2013/020167.

[0458] The pressure generator **4140** is under the control of the therapy device controller **4240**.

[0459] In other forms, a pressure generator **4140** may be a piston-driven pump, a pressure regulator connected to a high pressure source (e.g. compressed air reservoir), or a bellows.

5.5.1.4 Transducer(s)

[0460] Transducers may be internal of the RPT device, or external of the RPT device. External transducers may be located for example on or form part of the air circuit, e.g., the patient interface. External transducers may be in the form of non-contact sensors such as a Doppler radar movement sensor that transmit or transfer data to the RPT device.

[0461] In one form of the present technology, one or more transducers **4270** are located upstream and/or downstream of the pressure generator **4140**. The one or more transducers **4270** may be constructed and arranged to measure properties such as a flow rate, a pressure or a temperature at that point in the pneumatic path.

[0462] In one form of the present technology, one or more transducers **4270** may be located proximate to the patient interface **3000**.

[0463] In one form, a signal from a transducer **4270** may be filtered, such as by low-pass, high-pass or band-pass filtering.

5.5.1.4.1 Flow Rate Sensor

[0464] A flow rate sensor in accordance with the present technology may be based on a differential pressure transducer, for example, an SDP600 Series differential pressure transducer from SENSIRION.

[0465] In one form, a signal representing a flow rate such as a total flow rate Q_t from the flow rate sensor is received by the central controller **4230**.

5.5.1.4.2 Pressure Sensor

[0466] A pressure sensor in accordance with the present technology is located in fluid

communication with the pneumatic path. An example of a suitable pressure transducer is a sensor from the HONEYWELL ASDX series. An alternative suitable pressure transducer is a sensor from the NPA Series from GENERAL ELECTRIC.

[0467] In one form, a signal from the pressure sensor is received by the central controller **4230**.

5.5.1.4.3 Motor Speed Transducer

[0468] In one form of the present technology a motor speed transducer is used to determine a rotational velocity of the motor **4144** and/or the blower **4142**. A motor speed signal from the motor speed transducer may be provided to the therapy device controller **4240**. The motor speed transducer may, for example, be a speed sensor, such as a Hall effect sensor.

5.5.1.5 Anti-Spill Back Valve

[0469] In one form of the present technology, an anti-spill back valve **4160** is located between the humidifier **5000** and the pneumatic block **4020**. The anti-spill back valve **4160** is constructed and arranged to reduce the risk that water will flow upstream from the humidifier **5000**, for example to the motor **4144**.

5.5.1.6 Air Circuit

[0470] An air circuit **4170** in accordance with an aspect of the present technology is a conduit or a tube constructed and arranged in use to allow a flow of air to travel between two components such as the pneumatic block **4020** and the patient interface **3000**.

[0471] In particular, the air circuit **4170** may be in fluid connection with the outlet of the pneumatic block and the patient interface. The air circuit may be referred to as an air delivery tube. In some cases there may be separate limbs of the circuit for inhalation and exhalation. In other cases a single limb is used.

[0472] In some forms, the air circuit **4170** may comprise one or more heating elements configured to heat air in the air circuit, for example to maintain or raise the temperature of the air. In other words, the air circuit **4170** may be a heated air circuit **4171**. The heating element may be in a form of a heated wire circuit, and may comprise one or more transducers, such as temperature sensors. In one form, the heated wire circuit may be helically wound around the axis of the air circuit **4170**. The heating element may be in communication with a controller such as a central controller **4230**. One example of an air circuit **4170** comprising a heated wire circuit is described in United States Patent Application No. US/2011/0023874, which is incorporated herewithin in its entirety by reference.

[0473] FIGS. **36A** to **36C** depict examples of an air circuit **4170** according to an example of the present technology. The air circuit **4170** may include a tube **4172** that is comprised of one or more helical coils. The air circuit **4173** may include an RPT device connector **4173** at one end that is configured to connect to an RPT device **4000** to receive the flow of pressurized gas. At the other end, the air circuit **4170** may include a vent adaptor connector **4174** that may be connected to a vent adaptor **9100**, such as in the examples disclosed in FIGS. **33A** to **34G**. The vent adaptor connector **4174** may include connectors **4175** to join with corresponding air circuit connectors **9302** of the vent adaptor **9300**. The connectors **4175** may be in the form of female bayonet connectors that correspond to the air circuit connectors **9302**. The vent adaptor connector **4174** may also include grip recesses **4176** to allow the patient to grip the vent adaptor connector **4174** to rotate the air circuit **4170** to connect to or disconnect from the vent adaptor **9100**. The vent adaptor connector **4174** may also include a seal **4177** to form a pneumatic seal between the vent adaptor connector **4174** and a tube connector **4178** that connects the vent adaptor connector **4174** to the tube **4172**.

5.5.1.7 Oxygen Delivery

[0474] In one form of the present technology, supplemental oxygen **4180** is delivered to one or more points in the pneumatic path, such as upstream of the pneumatic block **4020**, to the air circuit **4170** and/or to the patient interface **3000**.

5.5.2 RPT Device Electrical Components

5.5.2.1 Power Supply

[0475] A power supply **4210** may be located internal or external of the external housing **4010** of the RPT device **4000**.

[0476] In one form of the present technology, power supply **4210** provides electrical power to the RPT device **4000** only. In another form of the present technology, power supply **4210** provides electrical power to both RPT device **4000** and humidifier **5000**.

5.5.2.2 Input Devices

[0477] In one form of the present technology, an RPT device **4000** includes one or more input devices **4220** in the form of buttons, switches or dials to allow a person to interact with the device. The buttons, switches or dials may be physical devices, or software devices accessible via a touch screen. The buttons, switches or dials may, in one form, be physically connected to the external housing **4010**, or may, in another form, be in wireless communication with a receiver that is in electrical connection to the central controller **4230**.

[0478] In one form, the input device **4220** may be constructed and arranged to allow a person to select a value and/or a menu option.

5.5.2.3 Central Controller

[0479] In one form of the present technology, the central controller **4230** is one or a plurality of processors suitable to control an RPT device **4000**.

[0480] Suitable processors may include an x86 INTEL processor, a processor based on ARM® Cortex®-M processor from ARM Holdings such as an STM32 series microcontroller from ST MICROELECTRONIC. In certain alternative forms of the present technology, a 32-bit RISC CPU, such as an STR9 series microcontroller from ST MICROELECTRONICS or a 16-bit RISC CPU such as a processor from the MSP430 family of microcontrollers, manufactured by TEXAS INSTRUMENTS may also be suitable.

[0481] In one form of the present technology, the central controller **4230** is a dedicated electronic circuit.

[0482] In one form, the central controller **4230** is an application-specific integrated circuit. In another form, the central controller **4230** comprises discrete electronic components.

[0483] The central controller **4230** may be configured to receive input signal(s) from one or more transducers **4270**, one or more input devices **4220**, and the humidifier **5000**.

[0484] The central controller **4230** may be configured to provide output signal(s) to one or more of an output device **4290**, a therapy device controller **4240**, a data communication interface **4280**, and the humidifier **5000**.

[0485] In some forms of the present technology, the central controller **4230** is configured to implement the one or more methodologies described herein, such as the one or more algorithms **4300** expressed as computer programs stored in a non-transitory computer readable storage medium, such as memory **4260**. In some forms of the present technology, the central controller **4230** may be integrated with an RPT device **4000**. However, in some forms of the present technology, some methodologies may be performed by a remotely located device. For example, the remotely located device may determine control settings for a ventilator or detect respiratory related events by analysis of stored data such as from any of the sensors described herein.

5.5.2.4 Clock

[0486] The RPT device **4000** may include a clock that is connected to the central controller **4230**.

5.5.2.5 Therapy Device Controller

[0487] In one form of the present technology, a therapy device **4350** may include a therapy device controller **4240** is a therapy control module **4330** that forms part of the algorithms **4300** executed by the central controller **4230**.

[0488] In one form of the present technology, therapy device controller **4240** is a dedicated motor control integrated circuit. For example, in one form a MC33035 brushless DC motor controller, manufactured by ONSEMI is used.

5.5.2.6 Protection Circuits

[0489] The one or more protection circuits **4250** in accordance with the present technology may comprise an electrical protection circuit, a temperature and/or pressure safety circuit.

5.5.2.7 Memory

[0490] In accordance with one form of the present technology the RPT device **4000** includes memory **4260**, e.g., non-volatile memory. In some forms, memory **4260** may include battery powered static RAM. In some forms, memory **4260** may include volatile RAM.

[0491] Memory **4260** may be located on the PCBA **4202**. Memory **4260** may be in the form of EEPROM, or NAND flash.

[0492] Additionally or alternatively, RPT device **4000** includes a removable form of memory **4260**, for example a memory card made in accordance with the Secure Digital (SD) standard.

[0493] In one form of the present technology, the memory **4260** acts as a non-transitory computer readable storage medium on which is stored computer program instructions expressing the one or more methodologies described herein, such as the one or more algorithms **4300**.

5.5.2.8 Data Communication Systems

[0494] In one form of the present technology, a data communication interface **4280** is provided, and is connected to the central controller **4230**. Data communication interface **4280** may be connectable to a remote external communication network and/or a local external communication network. The remote external communication network may be connectable to a remote external device. The local external communication network may be connectable to a local external device.

[0495] In one form, data communication interface **4280** is part of the central controller **4230**. In another form, data communication interface **4280** is separate from the central controller **4230**, and may comprise an integrated circuit or a processor.

[0496] In one form, remote external communication network is the Internet. The data communication interface **4280** may use wired communication (e.g. via Ethernet, or optical fibre) or a wireless protocol (e.g. CDMA, GSM, LTE) to connect to the Internet.

[0497] In one form, local external communication network utilises one or more communication standards, such as Bluetooth, or a consumer infrared protocol.

[0498] In one form, remote external device is one or more computers, for example a cluster of networked computers. In one form, remote external device may be virtual computers, rather than physical computers. In either case, such a remote external device may be accessible to an appropriately authorised person such as a clinician.

[0499] The local external device may be a personal computer, mobile phone, tablet or remote control.

5.5.2.9 Output Devices Including Optional Display, Alarms

[0500] An output device **4290** in accordance with the present technology may take the form of one or more of a visual, audio and haptic unit. A visual display may be a Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) or Light Emitting Diode (LED) display.

5.5.2.9.1 Display Driver

[0501] A display driver receives as an input the characters, symbols, or images intended for display on the display, and converts them to commands that cause the display to display those characters, symbols, or images.

5.5.2.9.2 Display

[0502] A display is configured to visually display characters, symbols, or images in response to commands received from the display driver. For example, the display may be an eight-segment display, in which case the display driver converts each character or symbol, such as the figure “0”, to eight logical signals indicating whether the eight respective segments are to be activated to display a particular character or symbol.

5.5.3 RPT Device Algorithms

5.5.3.1 Pre-Processing Module

[0503] A pre-processing module **4310** in accordance with one form of the present technology receives as an input a signal from a transducer **4270**, for example a flow rate sensor or pressure sensor, and performs one or more process steps to calculate one or more output values that will be used as an input to another module, for example a therapy engine module **4320**.

[0504] In one form of the present technology, the output values include the interface or mask pressure P_m , the respiratory flow rate Q_r , and the leak flow rate Q_l .

[0505] In various forms of the present technology, the pre-processing module **4310** comprises one or more of the following algorithms: pressure compensation **4312**, vent flow rate estimation **4314**, leak flow rate estimation **4316**, and respiratory flow rate estimation **4318**.

5.5.3.1.1 Pressure Compensation

[0506] In one form of the present technology, a pressure compensation algorithm **4312** receives as an input a signal indicative of the pressure in the pneumatic path proximal to an outlet of the pneumatic block. The pressure compensation algorithm **4312** estimates the pressure drop through the air circuit **4170** and provides as an output an estimated pressure, P_m , in the patient interface **3000**.

5.5.3.1.2 Vent Flow Rate Estimation

[0507] In one form of the present technology, a vent flow rate estimation algorithm **4314** receives as an input an estimated pressure, P_m , in the patient interface **3000** and estimates a vent flow rate of air, Q_v , from a vent **3400** in a patient interface **3000**.

5.5.3.1.3 Leak Flow Rate Estimation

[0508] In one form of the present technology, a leak flow rate estimation algorithm **4316** receives as an input a total flow rate, Q_t , and a vent flow rate Q_v , and provides as an output an estimate of the leak flow rate, Q_l . In one form, the leak flow rate estimation algorithm estimates the leak flow rate Q_l by calculating an average of the difference between total flow rate Q_t and vent flow rate Q_v over a period sufficiently long to include several breathing cycles, e.g. about 10 seconds.

[0509] In one form, the leak flow rate estimation algorithm **4316** receives as an input a total flow rate Q_t , a vent flow rate Q_v , and an estimated pressure, P_m , in the patient interface **3000**, and provides as an output a leak flow rate Q_l , by calculating a leak conductance, and determining a leak flow rate Q_l to be a function of leak conductance and pressure, P_m . Leak conductance is calculated as the quotient of low pass filtered non-vent flow rate equal to the difference between total flow rate Q_t and vent flow rate Q_v , and low pass filtered square root of pressure P_m , where the low pass filter time constant has a value sufficiently long to include several breathing cycles, e.g. about 10 seconds. The leak flow rate Q_l may be estimated as the product of leak conductance and a function of pressure, P_m .

5.5.3.1.4 Respiratory Flow Rate Estimation

[0510] In one form of the present technology, a respiratory flow rate estimation algorithm **4318** receives as an input a total flow rate, Q_t , a vent flow rate, Q_v , and a leak flow rate, Q_l , and estimates a respiratory flow rate of air, Q_r , to the patient, by subtracting the vent flow rate Q_v and the leak flow rate Q_l from the total flow rate Q_t .

5.5.3.2 Therapy Engine Module

[0511] In one form of the present technology, a therapy engine module **4320** receives as inputs one or more of a pressure, P_m , in a patient interface **3000**, and a respiratory flow rate of air to a patient, Q_r , and provides as an output one or more therapy parameters.

[0512] In one form of the present technology, a therapy parameter is a treatment pressure P_t .

[0513] In one form of the present technology, therapy parameters are one or more of a level of pressure support, a base pressure, and a target ventilation.

[0514] In various forms, the therapy engine module **4320** comprises one or more of the following algorithms: phase determination **4321**, waveform determination **4322**, ventilation determination **4323**, inspiratory flow limitation determination **4324**, apnea/hypopnea determination **4325**, snore determination **4326**, airway patency determination **4327**, target ventilation determination **4328**, and

therapy parameter determination **4329**.

5.5.3.2.1 Phase Determination

[0515] In one form of the present technology, the RPT device **4000** does not determine phase.

[0516] In one form of the present technology, a phase determination algorithm **4321** receives as an input a signal indicative of respiratory flow rate, Q_r , and provides as an output a phase ϕ of a current breathing cycle of a patient **1000**.

[0517] In some forms, known as discrete phase determination, the phase output ϕ is a discrete variable. One implementation of discrete phase determination provides a bi-valued phase output ϕ with values of either inhalation or exhalation, for example represented as values of 0 and 0.5 revolutions respectively, upon detecting the start of spontaneous inhalation and exhalation respectively. RPT devices **4000** that “trigger” and “cycle” effectively perform discrete phase determination, since the trigger and cycle points are the instants at which the phase changes from exhalation to inhalation and from inhalation to exhalation, respectively. In one implementation of bi-valued phase determination, the phase output is determined to have a discrete value of 0 (thereby “triggering” the RPT device **4000**) when the respiratory flow rate Q_r has a value that exceeds a positive threshold, and a discrete value of 0.5 revolutions (thereby “cycling” the RPT device **4000**) when a respiratory flow rate Q_r has a value that is more negative than a negative threshold.

[0518] Another implementation of discrete phase determination provides a tri-valued phase output ϕ with a value of one of inhalation, mid-inspiratory pause, and exhalation.

[0519] In other forms, known as continuous phase determination, the phase output ϕ is a continuous variable, for example varying from 0 to 1 revolutions, or 0 to 2π radians. RPT devices **4000** that perform continuous phase determination may trigger and cycle when the continuous phase reaches 0 and 0.5 revolutions, respectively. In one implementation of continuous phase determination, a continuous value of phase ϕ is determined using a fuzzy logic analysis of the respiratory flow rate Q_r . A continuous value of phase determined in this implementation is often referred to as “fuzzy phase”. In one implementation of a fuzzy phase determination algorithm **4321**, the following rules are applied to the respiratory flow rate Q_r : [0520] 1. If the respiratory flow rate is zero and increasing fast then the phase is 0 revolutions. [0521] 2. If the respiratory flow rate is large positive and steady then the phase is 0.25 revolutions. [0522] 3. If the respiratory flow rate is zero and falling fast, then the phase is 0.5 revolutions. [0523] 4. If the respiratory flow rate is large negative and steady then the phase is 0.75 revolutions. [0524] 5. If the respiratory flow rate is zero and steady and the 5-second low-pass filtered absolute value of the respiratory flow rate is large then the phase is 0.9 revolutions. [0525] 6. If the respiratory flow rate is positive and the phase is expiratory, then the phase is 0 revolutions. [0526] 7. If the respiratory flow rate is negative and the phase is inspiratory, then the phase is 0.5 revolutions. [0527] 8. If the 5-second low-pass filtered absolute value of the respiratory flow rate is large, the phase is increasing at a steady rate equal to the patient's breathing rate, low-pass filtered with a time constant of 20 seconds.

[0528] The output of each rule may be represented as a vector whose phase is the result of the rule and whose magnitude is the fuzzy extent to which the rule is true. The fuzzy extent to which the respiratory flow rate is “large”, “steady”, etc. is determined with suitable membership functions. The results of the rules, represented as vectors, are then combined by some function such as taking the centroid. In such a combination, the rules may be equally weighted, or differently weighted. [0529] In another implementation of continuous phase determination, the inhalation time T_i and the exhalation time T_e are first estimated from the respiratory flow rate Q_r . The phase is then determined as the half the proportion of the inhalation time T_i that has elapsed since the previous trigger instant, or 0.5 revolutions plus half the proportion of the exhalation time T_e that has elapsed since the previous cycle instant (whichever was more recent).

5.5.3.2.2 Waveform Determination

[0530] In one form of the present technology, the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** provides an approximately constant treatment pressure throughout a respiratory cycle of a patient.

[0531] In other forms of the present technology, the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** controls the pressure generator **4140** to provide a treatment pressure P_t that varies throughout a respiratory cycle of a patient according to a waveform template.

[0532] In one form of the present technology, a waveform determination algorithm **4322** provides a waveform template $\square(\square)$ with values in the range [0, 1] on the domain of phase values $\square\square$ provided by the phase determination algorithm **4321** to be used by the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329**.

[0533] In one form, suitable for either discrete or continuously-valued phase, the waveform template $\square(\square)$ is a square-wave template, having a value of 1 for values of phase up to and including 0.5 revolutions, and a value of 0 for values of phase above 0.5 revolutions. In one form, suitable for continuously-valued phase, the waveform template $\square(\square)$ comprises two smoothly curved portions, namely a smoothly curved (e.g. raised cosine) rise from 0 to 1 for values of phase up to 0.5 revolutions, and a smoothly curved (e.g. exponential) decay from 1 to 0 for values of phase above 0.5 revolutions. In one form, suitable for continuously-valued phase, the waveform template $\square(\square)$ is based on a square wave, but with a smooth rise from 0 to 1 for values of phase up to a “rise time” that is substantially less than 0.5 revolutions, and a smooth fall from 1 to 0 for values of phase within a “fall time” after 0.5 revolutions.

[0534] In some forms of the present technology, the waveform determination algorithm **4322** selects a waveform template $\square(\square)$ from a library of waveform templates, dependent on a setting of the RPT device. Each waveform template in the library may be provided as a lookup table of values against phase values \square . In other forms, the waveform determination algorithm **4322** computes a waveform template $\square(\square)$ “on the fly” using a predetermined functional form, possibly parametrised by one or more parameters (e.g. time constant of an exponentially curved portion). The parameters of the functional form may be predetermined or dependent on a current state of the patient **1000**.

[0535] In some forms of the present technology, suitable for discrete bi-valued phase of either inhalation ($\square\square=0$ revolutions) or exhalation ($\square\square=0.5$ revolutions), the waveform determination algorithm **4322** computes a waveform template \square “on the fly” as a function of both discrete phase $\square\square$ and time t measured since the most recent trigger instant. In one such form, the waveform determination algorithm **4322** computes the waveform template $\square(\square, t)$ in two portions (inspiratory and expiratory) as follows:

$$[00002] \text{ .Math. } (\square, t) = \begin{cases} \text{ .Math.}_i(t), & = 0 \\ \text{ .Math.}_e(t - T_i), & = 0.5 \end{cases} \quad [0536] \text{ where } \square.\text{sub.i}(t) \text{ and } \square.\text{sub.e}(t) \text{ are}$$

inspiratory and expiratory portions of the waveform template $\square(\square, t)$. In one such form, the inspiratory portion $\square.\text{sub.i}(t)$ of the waveform template is a smooth rise from 0 to 1 parametrised by a rise time, and the expiratory portion $\square.\text{sub.e}(t)$ of the waveform template is a smooth fall from 1 to 0 parametrised by a fall time.

5.5.3.2.3 Ventilation Determination

[0537] In one form of the present technology, a ventilation determination algorithm **4323** receives an input a respiratory flow rate Q_r , and determines a measure indicative of current patient ventilation, V_{ent} .

[0538] In some implementations, the ventilation determination algorithm **4323** determines a measure of ventilation V_{ent} that is an estimate of actual patient ventilation. One such implementation is to take half the absolute value of respiratory flow rate, Q_r , optionally filtered by low-pass filter such as a second order Bessel low-pass filter with a corner frequency of 0.11 Hz.

[0539] In other implementations, the ventilation determination algorithm **4323** determines a measure of ventilation V_{ent} that is broadly proportional to actual patient ventilation. One such implementation estimates peak respiratory flow rate Q_{peak} over the inspiratory portion of the cycle. This and many other procedures involving sampling the respiratory flow rate Q_r produce measures which are broadly proportional to ventilation, provided the flow rate waveform shape

does not vary very much (here, the shape of two breaths is taken to be similar when the flow rate waveforms of the breaths normalised in time and amplitude are similar). Some simple examples include the median positive respiratory flow rate, the median of the absolute value of respiratory flow rate, and the standard deviation of flow rate. Arbitrary linear combinations of arbitrary order statistics of the absolute value of respiratory flow rate using positive coefficients, and even some using both positive and negative coefficients, are approximately proportional to ventilation. Another example is the mean of the respiratory flow rate in the middle K proportion (by time) of the inspiratory portion, where $0 < K < 1$. There is an arbitrarily large number of measures that are exactly proportional to ventilation if the flow rate shape is constant.

5.5.3.2.4 Determination of Inspiratory Flow Limitation

[0540] In one form of the present technology, the central controller **4230** executes an inspiratory flow limitation determination algorithm **4324** for the determination of the extent of inspiratory flow limitation.

[0541] In one form, the inspiratory flow limitation determination algorithm **4324** receives as an input a respiratory flow rate signal Q_r and provides as an output a metric of the extent to which the inspiratory portion of the breath exhibits inspiratory flow limitation.

[0542] In one form of the present technology, the inspiratory portion of each breath is identified by a zero-crossing detector. A number of evenly spaced points (for example, sixty-five), representing points in time, are interpolated by an interpolator along the inspiratory flow rate-time curve for each breath. The curve described by the points is then scaled by a scaler to have unity length (duration/period) and unity area to remove the effects of changing breathing rate and depth. The scaled breaths are then compared in a comparator with a pre-stored template representing a normal unobstructed breath, similar to the inspiratory portion of the breath shown in FIG. 6A. Breaths deviating by more than a specified threshold (typically 1 scaled unit) at any time during the inspiration from this template, such as those due to coughs, sighs, swallows and hiccups, as determined by a test element, are rejected. For non-rejected data, a moving average of the first such scaled point is calculated by the central controller **4230** for the preceding several inspiratory events. This is repeated over the same inspiratory events for the second such point, and so on. Thus, for example, sixty five scaled data points are generated by the central controller **4230**, and represent a moving average of the preceding several inspiratory events, e.g., three events. The moving average of continuously updated values of the (e.g., sixty five) points are hereinafter called the “scaled flow rate”, designated as $Q_s(t)$. Alternatively, a single inspiratory event can be utilised rather than a moving average.

[0543] From the scaled flow rate, two shape factors relating to the determination of partial obstruction may be calculated.

[0544] Shape factor 1 is the ratio of the mean of the middle (e.g. thirty-two) scaled flow rate points to the mean overall (e.g. sixty-five) scaled flow rate points. Where this ratio is in excess of unity, the breath will be taken to be normal. Where the ratio is unity or less, the breath will be taken to be obstructed. A ratio of about 1.17 is taken as a threshold between partially obstructed and unobstructed breathing, and equates to a degree of obstruction that would permit maintenance of adequate oxygenation in a typical patient.

[0545] Shape factor 2 is calculated as the RMS deviation from unit scaled flow rate, taken over the middle (e.g. thirty two) points. An RMS deviation of about 0.2 units is taken to be normal. An RMS deviation of zero is taken to be a totally flow-limited breath. The closer the RMS deviation to zero, the breath will be taken to be more flow limited.

[0546] Shape factors 1 and 2 may be used as alternatives, or in combination. In other forms of the present technology, the number of sampled points, breaths and middle points may differ from those described above. Furthermore, the threshold values can other than those described.

5.5.3.2.5 Determination of Apneas and Hypopneas

[0547] In one form of the present technology, the central controller **4230** executes an

apnea/hypopnea determination algorithm **4325** for the determination of the presence of apneas and/or hypopneas.

[0548] The apnea/hypopnea determination algorithm **4325** receives as an input a respiratory flow rate signal Q_r and provide as an output a flag that indicates that an apnea or a hypopnea has been detected.

[0549] In one form, an apnea will be said to have been detected when a function of respiratory flow rate Q_r falls below a flow rate threshold for a predetermined period of time. The function may determine a peak flow rate, a relatively short-term mean flow rate, or a flow rate intermediate of relatively short-term mean and peak flow rate, for example an RMS flow rate. The flow rate threshold may be a relatively long-term measure of flow rate.

[0550] In one form, a hypopnea will be said to have been detected when a function of respiratory flow rate Q_r falls below a second flow rate threshold for a predetermined period of time. The function may determine a peak flow, a relatively short-term mean flow rate, or a flow rate intermediate of relatively short-term mean and peak flow rate, for example an RMS flow rate. The second flow rate threshold may be a relatively long-term measure of flow rate. The second flow rate threshold is greater than the flow rate threshold used to detect apneas.

5.5.3.2.6 Determination of Snore

[0551] In one form of the present technology, the central controller **4230** executes one or more snore determination algorithms **4326** for the determination of the extent of snore.

[0552] In one form, the snore determination algorithm **4326** receives as an input a respiratory flow rate signal Q_r and provides as an output a metric of the extent to which snoring is present.

[0553] The snore determination algorithm **4326** may comprise the step of determining the intensity of the flow rate signal in the range of 30-300 Hz. Further the snore determination algorithm **4326** may comprise a step of filtering the respiratory flow rate signal Q_r to reduce background noise, e.g., the sound of airflow in the system from the blower.

5.5.3.2.7 Determination of Airway Patency

[0554] In one form of the present technology, the central controller **4230** executes one or more airway patency determination algorithms **4327** for the determination of the extent of airway patency.

[0555] In one form, the airway patency determination algorithm **4327** receives as an input a respiratory flow rate signal Q_r , and determines the power of the signal in the frequency range of about 0.75 Hz and about 3 Hz. The presence of a peak in this frequency range is taken to indicate an open airway. The absence of a peak is taken to be an indication of a closed airway.

[0556] In one form, the frequency range within which the peak is sought is the frequency of a small forced oscillation in the treatment pressure P_t . In one implementation, the forced oscillation is of frequency 2 Hz with amplitude about 1 cmH₂O.

[0557] In one form, airway patency determination algorithm **4327** receives as an input a respiratory flow rate signal Q_r , and determines the presence or absence of a cardiogenic signal. The absence of a cardiogenic signal is taken to be an indication of a closed airway.

5.5.3.2.8 Determination of Target Ventilation

[0558] In one form of the present technology, the central controller **4230** takes as input the measure of current ventilation, V_{ent} , and executes one or more a target ventilation determination algorithms **4328** for the determination of a target value V_{tgt} for the measure of ventilation.

[0559] In some forms of the present technology, there is no target ventilation determination algorithm **4328**, and the target value V_{tgt} is predetermined, for example by hard-coding during configuration of the RPT device **4000** or by manual entry through the input device **4220**.

[0560] In other forms of the present technology, such as adaptive servo-ventilation (ASV), the target ventilation determination algorithm **4328** computes a target value V_{tgt} from a value V_{typ} indicative of the typical recent ventilation of the patient.

[0561] In some forms of adaptive servo-ventilation, the target ventilation V_{tgt} is computed as a

high proportion of, but less than, the typical recent ventilation V_{typ} . The high proportion in such forms may be in the range (80%, 100%), or (85%, 95%), or (87%, 92%).

[0562] In other forms of adaptive servo-ventilation, the target ventilation V_{tgt} is computed as a slightly greater than unity multiple of the typical recent ventilation V_{typ} .

[0563] The typical recent ventilation V_{typ} is the value around which the distribution of the measure of current ventilation V_{ent} over multiple time instants over some predetermined timescale tends to cluster, that is, a measure of the central tendency of the measure of current ventilation over recent history. In one implementation of the target ventilation determination algorithm **4328**, the recent history is of the order of several minutes, but in any case should be longer than the timescale of Cheyne-Stokes waxing and waning cycles. The target ventilation determination algorithm **4328** may use any of the variety of well-known measures of central tendency to determine the typical recent ventilation V_{typ} from the measure of current ventilation, V_{ent} . One such measure is the output of a low-pass filter on the measure of current ventilation V_{ent} , with time constant equal to one hundred seconds.

5.5.3.2.9 Determination of Therapy Parameters

[0564] In some forms of the present technology, the central controller **4230** executes one or more therapy parameter determination algorithms **4329** for the determination of one or more therapy parameters using the values returned by one or more of the other algorithms in the therapy engine module **4320**.

[0565] In one form of the present technology, the therapy parameter is an instantaneous treatment pressure P_t . In one implementation of this form, the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** determines the treatment pressure P_t using the equation

[00003] $P_t = A(\phi, t) + P_{sub.0}$ (1) [0566] where: [0567] A is the amplitude, [0568] $\phi(\phi, t)$ is the waveform template value (in the range 0 to 1) at the current value ϕ of phase and t of time, and [0569] $P_{sub.0}$ is a base pressure.

[0570] If the waveform determination algorithm **4322** provides the waveform template $\phi(\phi, t)$ as a lookup table of values indexed by phase ϕ , the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** applies equation (1) by locating the nearest lookup table entry to the current value ϕ of phase returned by the phase determination algorithm **4321**, or by interpolation between the two entries straddling the current value ϕ of phase.

[0571] The values of the amplitude A and the base pressure $P_{sub.0}$ may be set by the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** depending on the chosen respiratory pressure therapy mode in the manner described below.

5.5.3.3 Therapy Control Module

[0572] Therapy control module **4330** in accordance with one aspect of the present technology receives as inputs the therapy parameters from the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** of the therapy engine module **4320**, and controls the pressure generator **4140** to deliver a flow of air in accordance with the therapy parameters.

[0573] In one form of the present technology, the therapy parameter is a treatment pressure P_t , and the therapy control module **4330** controls the pressure generator **4140** to deliver a flow of air whose mask pressure P_m at the patient interface **3000** is equal to the treatment pressure P_t .

5.5.3.4 Detection of Fault Conditions

[0574] In one form of the present technology, the central controller **4230** executes one or more methods for the detection of fault conditions **4340**. The fault conditions detected by the one or more methods may include at least one of the following: [0575] Power failure (no power, or insufficient power) [0576] Transducer fault detection [0577] Failure to detect the presence of a component [0578] Operating parameters outside recommended ranges (e.g. pressure, flow rate, temperature, $PaO_{sub.2}$) [0579] Failure of a test alarm to generate a detectable alarm signal.

[0580] Upon detection of the fault condition, the corresponding algorithm signals the presence of

the fault by one or more of the following: [0581] Initiation of an audible, visual &/or kinetic (e.g. vibrating) alarm [0582] Sending a message to an external device [0583] Logging of the incident

5.6 Humidifier

5.6.1 Humidifier Overview

[0584] In one form of the present technology there is provided a humidifier **5000** (e.g. as shown in FIG. 5A) to change the absolute humidity of air or gas for delivery to a patient relative to ambient air. Typically, the humidifier **5000** is used to increase the absolute humidity and increase the temperature of the flow of air (relative to ambient air) before delivery to the patient's airways.

[0585] The humidifier **5000** may comprise a humidifier reservoir **5110**, a humidifier inlet **5002** to receive a flow of air, and a humidifier outlet **5004** to deliver a humidified flow of air. In some forms, as shown in FIG. 5A and FIG. 5B, an inlet and an outlet of the humidifier reservoir **5110** may be the humidifier inlet **5002** and the humidifier outlet **5004** respectively. The humidifier **5000** may further comprise a humidifier base **5006**, which may be adapted to receive the humidifier reservoir **5110** and comprise a heating element **5240**.

5.6.2 Humidifier Mechanical Components

5.6.2.1 Water Reservoir

[0586] According to one arrangement, the humidifier **5000** may comprise a water reservoir **5110** configured to hold, or retain, a volume of liquid (e.g. water) to be evaporated for humidification of the flow of air. The water reservoir **5110** may be configured to hold a predetermined maximum volume of water in order to provide adequate humidification for at least the duration of a respiratory therapy session, such as one evening of sleep. Typically, the reservoir **5110** is configured to hold several hundred millilitres of water, e.g. 300 millilitres (ml), 325 ml, 350 ml or 400 ml. In other forms, the humidifier **5000** may be configured to receive a supply of water from an external water source such as a building's water supply system.

[0587] According to one aspect, the water reservoir **5110** is configured to add humidity to a flow of air from the RPT device **4000** as the flow of air travels therethrough. In one form, the water reservoir **5110** may be configured to encourage the flow of air to travel in a tortuous path through the reservoir **5110** while in contact with the volume of water therein.

[0588] According to one form, the reservoir **5110** may be removable from the humidifier **5000**, for example in a lateral direction as shown in FIG. 5A and FIG. 5B.

[0589] The reservoir **5110** may also be configured to discourage egress of liquid therefrom, such as when the reservoir **5110** is displaced and/or rotated from its normal, working orientation, such as through any apertures and/or in between its sub-components. As the flow of air to be humidified by the humidifier **5000** is typically pressurised, the reservoir **5110** may also be configured to prevent losses in pneumatic pressure through leak and/or flow impedance.

5.6.2.2 Conductive Portion

[0590] According to one arrangement, the reservoir **5110** comprises a conductive portion **5120** configured to allow efficient transfer of heat from the heating element **5240** to the volume of liquid in the reservoir **5110**. In one form, the conductive portion **5120** may be arranged as a plate, although other shapes may also be suitable. All or a part of the conductive portion **5120** may be made of a thermally conductive material such as aluminium (e.g. approximately 2 mm thick, such as 1 mm, 1.5 mm, 2.5 mm or 3 mm), another heat conducting metal or some plastics. In some cases, suitable heat conductivity may be achieved with less conductive materials of suitable geometry.

5.6.2.3 Humidifier Reservoir Dock

[0591] In one form, the humidifier **5000** may comprise a humidifier reservoir dock **5130** (as shown in FIG. 5B) configured to receive the humidifier reservoir **5110**. In some arrangements, the humidifier reservoir dock **5130** may comprise a locking feature such as a locking lever **5135** configured to retain the reservoir **5110** in the humidifier reservoir dock **5130**.

5.6.2.4 Water Level Indicator

[0592] The humidifier reservoir **5110** may comprise a water level indicator **5150** as shown in FIG. 5A-5B. In some forms, the water level indicator **5150** may provide one or more indications to a user such as the patient **1000** or a care giver regarding a quantity of the volume of water in the humidifier reservoir **5110**. The one or more indications provided by the water level indicator **5150** may include an indication of a maximum, predetermined volume of water, any portions thereof, such as 25%, 50% or 75% or volumes such as 200 ml, 300 ml or 400 ml.

5.6.3 Humidifier Electrical & Thermal Components

[0593] The humidifier **5000** may comprise a number of electrical and/or thermal components such as those listed below.

5.6.3.1 Humidifier Transducer(s)

[0594] The humidifier **5000** may comprise one or more humidifier transducers (sensors) **5210** instead of, or in addition to, transducers **4270** described above. Humidifier transducers **5210** may include one or more of an air pressure sensor **5212**, an air flow rate transducer **5214**, a temperature sensor **5216**, or a humidity sensor **5218** as shown in FIG. 5C. A humidifier transducer **5210** may produce one or more output signals which may be communicated to a controller such as the central controller **4230** and/or the humidifier controller **5250**. In some forms, a humidifier transducer may be located externally to the humidifier **5000** (such as in the air circuit **4170**) while communicating the output signal to the controller.

5.6.3.1.1 Pressure Transducer

[0595] One or more pressure transducers **5212** may be provided to the humidifier **5000** in addition to, or instead of, a pressure sensor provided in the RPT device **4000**.

5.6.3.1.2 Flow Rate Transducer

[0596] One or more flow rate transducers **5214** may be provided to the humidifier **5000** in addition to, or instead of, a flow rate sensor provided in the RPT device **4000**.

5.6.3.1.3 Temperature Transducer

[0597] The humidifier **5000** may comprise one or more temperature transducers **5216**. The one or more temperature transducers **5216** may be configured to measure one or more temperatures such as of the heating element **5240** and/or of the flow of air downstream of the humidifier outlet **5004**. In some forms, the humidifier **5000** may further comprise a temperature sensor **5216** to detect the temperature of the ambient air.

5.6.3.1.4 Humidity Transducer

[0598] In one form, the humidifier **5000** may comprise one or more humidity sensors **5218** to detect a humidity of a gas, such as the ambient air. The humidity sensor **5218** may be placed towards the humidifier outlet **5004** in some forms to measure a humidity of the gas delivered from the humidifier **5000**. The humidity sensor may be an absolute humidity sensor or a relative humidity sensor.

5.6.3.2 Heating Element

[0599] A heating element **5240** may be provided to the humidifier **5000** in some cases to provide a heat input to one or more of the volume of water in the humidifier reservoir **5110** and/or to the flow of air. The heating element **5240** may comprise a heat generating component such as an electrically resistive heating track. One suitable example of a heating element **5240** is a layered heating element such as one described in the PCT Patent Application Publication No. WO 2012/171072, which is incorporated herewith by reference in its entirety.

[0600] In some forms, the heating element **5240** may be provided in the humidifier base **5006** where heat may be provided to the humidifier reservoir **5110** primarily by conduction as shown in FIG. 5B.

5.6.3.3 Humidifier Controller

[0601] According to one arrangement of the present technology, a humidifier **5000** may comprise a humidifier controller **5250** as shown in FIG. 5C. In one form, the humidifier controller **5250** may be a part of the central controller **4230**. In another form, the humidifier controller **5250** may be a

separate controller, which may be in communication with the central controller **4230**.

[0602] In one form, the humidifier controller **5250** may receive as inputs measures of characteristics (such as temperature, humidity, pressure and/or flow rate), for example of the flow of air, the water in the reservoir **5110** and/or the humidifier **5000**. The humidifier controller **5250** may also be configured to execute or implement humidifier algorithms and/or deliver one or more output signals.

[0603] As shown in FIG. 5C, the humidifier controller **5250** may comprise one or more controllers, such as a central humidifier controller **5251**, a heated air circuit controller **5254** configured to control the temperature of a heated air circuit **4170** and/or a heating element controller **5252** configured to control the temperature of a heating element **5240**.

5.7 Respiratory Pressure Therapy Modes

[0604] Various respiratory pressure therapy modes may be implemented by the RPT device **4000** depending on the values of the parameters A and P.sub.0 in the treatment pressure equation (1) used by the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** in one form of the present technology.

5.7.1 CPAP Therapy

[0605] In some implementations of this form of the present technology, the amplitude A is identically zero, so the treatment pressure P_t is identically equal to the base pressure P.sub.0 throughout the respiratory cycle. Such implementations are generally grouped under the heading of CPAP therapy. In such implementations, there is no need for the therapy engine module **4320** to determine phase or the waveform template □(□).

[0606] In CPAP therapy modes, the base pressure P.sub.0 may be a constant value that is hard-coded or manually entered to the RPT device **4000**. This alternative is sometimes referred to as constant CPAP therapy. The constant value for the base pressure P.sub.0 may be selected for a given patient via a process known as titration. During titration, a clinician typically adjusts the treatment pressure P_t in response to observations of flow limitation, apnea, hypopnea, patency, and snore during a titration session. The titrated base pressure P.sub.0 may be then computed as a statistical summary of the treatment pressure P_t during the titration session.

[0607] Alternatively, the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** may continuously compute the base pressure P.sub.0 during CPAP therapy. In this alternative, the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** continuously computes the base pressure P.sub.0 as a function of indices or measures of sleep disordered breathing returned by the respective algorithms in the therapy engine module **4320**, such as one or more of flow limitation, apnea, hypopnea, patency, and snore. This alternative is sometimes referred to as APAP therapy. Because the continuous computation of the base pressure P.sub.0 resembles the manual adjustment of the treatment pressure P_t by a clinician during titration, APAP therapy is also sometimes referred to as auto-titrating CPAP.

5.7.2 Bi-Level Therapy

[0608] In other implementations of this form of the present technology, the value of amplitude A in equation (1) may be positive. Such implementations are known as bi-level therapy, because in determining the treatment pressure P_t using equation (1) with positive amplitude A, the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** oscillates the treatment pressure P_t between two values or levels in synchrony with the spontaneous respiratory effort of the patient **1000**. That is, based on the typical waveform templates t) described above, the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** increases the treatment pressure P_t to P.sub.0+A (known as the IPAP) at the start of, or during, inspiration and decreases the treatment pressure P_t to the base pressure P.sub.0 (known as the EPAP) at the start of, or during, expiration.

[0609] In some forms of bi-level therapy, the IPAP is a prescribed treatment pressure that has the same purpose as the treatment pressure in CPAP therapy modes, and the EPAP is the IPAP minus the amplitude A, which has a “small” value (a few cmH.sub.2O) sometimes referred to as the Expiratory Pressure Relief (EPR). Such forms are sometimes referred to as CPAP therapy with

EPR, which is generally thought to be more comfortable than straight CPAP therapy. In CPAP therapy with EPR, either or both of the IPAP and the EPAP may be constant values that are hard-coded or manually entered to the RPT device **4000**. Alternatively, the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** may continuously compute the IPAP and/or the EPAP during CPAP with EPR. In this alternative, the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** continuously computes the EPAP and/or the IPAP as a function of indices or measures of sleep disordered breathing returned by the respective algorithms in the therapy engine module **4320** in analogous fashion to the computation of the base pressure $P_{sub.0}$ in APAP therapy described above.

[0610] In other forms of bi-level therapy, the amplitude A is large enough that the RPT device **4000** does some or all of the work of breathing of the patient **1000**. In such forms, known as pressure support ventilation therapy, the amplitude A is referred to as the pressure support, or swing. In pressure support ventilation therapy, the IPAP is the base pressure $P_{sub.0}$ plus the pressure support A , and the EPAP is the base pressure $P_{sub.0}$.

[0611] In some forms of pressure support ventilation therapy, known as fixed pressure support ventilation therapy, the pressure support A is fixed at a predetermined value, e.g. $10 \text{ cmH}_{sub.2O}$. The predetermined pressure support value is a setting of the RPT device **4000**, and may be set for example by hard-coding during configuration of the RPT device **4000** or by manual entry through the input device **4220**.

[0612] In some forms of pressure support ventilation therapy, known as servo-ventilation, the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** takes as input the current measure V_{ent} of ventilation and the target value V_{tgt} of ventilation provided by the target ventilation determination algorithm **4328** and continuously adjusts the parameters of equation (1) to bring the current measure V_{ent} of ventilation towards the target value V_{tgt} of ventilation. In a form of servo-ventilation known as adaptive servo-ventilation (ASV), which has been used to treat CSR, the target ventilation V_{tgt} is computed by the target ventilation determination algorithm **4328** from the typical recent ventilation V_{typ} , as described above.

[0613] In some forms of servo-ventilation, the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** applies a control methodology to continuously compute the pressure support A so as to bring the current measure V_{ent} of ventilation towards the target ventilation V_{tgt} . One such control methodology is Proportional-Integral (PI) control. In one implementation of PI control, suitable for ASV modes in which a target ventilation V_{tgt} is set to slightly less than the typical recent ventilation V_{typ} , the pressure support is computed as:

[00004]
$$A = G \int (V_{ent} - V_{tgt}) dt \quad (2)$$

[0614] where G is the gain of the PI control. Larger values of gain G can result in positive feedback in the therapy engine module **4320**. Smaller values of gain G may permit some residual untreated CSR or central sleep apnea. In some implementations, the gain G is fixed at a predetermined value, such as $-0.4 \text{ cmH}_{sub.2O}/(\text{L}/\text{min})/\text{sec}$. Alternatively, the gain G may be varied between therapy sessions, starting small and increasing from session to session until a value that all but eliminates CSR is reached. Conventional means for retrospectively analysing the parameters of a therapy session to assess the severity of CSR during the therapy session may be employed in such implementations. In yet other implementations, the gain G may vary depending on the difference between the current measure V_{ent} of ventilation and the target ventilation V_{tgt} .

[0615] Other servo-ventilation control methodologies that may be applied by the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** include proportional (P), proportional-differential (PD), and proportional-integral-differential (PID).

[0616] The value of the pressure support A computed via equation (2) may be clipped to a range defined as $[A_{min}, A_{max}]$. In this implementation, the pressure support A sits by default at the minimum pressure support A_{min} until the measure of current ventilation V_{ent} falls below the target ventilation V_{tgt} , at which point A starts increasing, only falling back to A_{min} when V_{ent} exceeds

Vtgt once again.

[0617] The pressure support limits Amin and Amax are settings of the RPT device **4000**, set for example by hard-coding during configuration of the RPT device **4000** or by manual entry through the input device **4220**. A minimum pressure support Amin of 3 cmH.sub.2O is of the order of 50% of the pressure support required to perform all the work of breathing of a typical patient in the steady state. A maximum pressure support Amax of 12 cmH.sub.2O is approximately double the pressure support required to perform all the work of breathing of a typical patient, and therefore sufficient to support the patient's breathing if they cease making any efforts, but less than a value that would be uncomfortable or dangerous.

[0618] In pressure support ventilation therapy modes, the EPAP is the base pressure P.sub.0. As with the base pressure P.sub.0 in CPAP therapy, the EPAP may be a constant value that is prescribed or determined during titration. Such a constant EPAP may be set for example by hard-coding during configuration of the RPT device **4000** or by manual entry through the input device **4220**. This alternative is sometimes referred to as fixed-EPAP pressure support ventilation therapy. Titration of the EPAP for a given patient may be performed by a clinician during a titration session with the aid of PSG, with the aim of preventing obstructive apneas, thereby maintaining an open airway for the pressure support ventilation therapy, in similar fashion to titration of the base pressure P.sub.0 in constant CPAP therapy.

[0619] Alternatively, the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** may continuously compute the base pressure P.sub.0 during pressure support ventilation therapy. In such implementations, the therapy parameter determination algorithm **4329** continuously computes the EPAP as a function of indices or measures of sleep disordered breathing returned by the respective algorithms in the therapy engine module **4320**, such as one or more of flow limitation, apnea, hypopnea, patency, and snore. Because the continuous computation of the EPAP resembles the manual adjustment of the EPAP by a clinician during titration of the EPAP, this process is also sometimes referred to as auto-titration of the EPAP, and the overall therapy is known as auto-titrating EPAP pressure support ventilation therapy, or auto-EPAP pressure support ventilation therapy.

5.8 Glossary

[0620] For the purposes of the present technology disclosure, in certain forms of the present technology, one or more of the following definitions may apply. In other forms of the present technology, alternative definitions may apply.

5.8.1 General

[0621] Air: In certain forms of the present technology, air may be taken to mean atmospheric air, and in other forms of the present technology air may be taken to mean some other combination of breathable gases, e.g. atmospheric air enriched with oxygen.

[0622] Ambient: In certain forms of the present technology, the term ambient will be taken to mean (i) external of the treatment system or patient, and (ii) immediately surrounding the treatment system or patient.

[0623] For example, ambient humidity with respect to a humidifier may be the humidity of air immediately surrounding the humidifier, e.g. the humidity in the room where a patient is sleeping. Such ambient humidity may be different to the humidity outside the room where a patient is sleeping.

[0624] In another example, ambient pressure may be the pressure immediately surrounding or external to the body.

[0625] In certain forms, ambient (e.g., acoustic) noise may be considered to be the background noise level in the room where a patient is located, other than for example, noise generated by an RPT device or emanating from a mask or patient interface. Ambient noise may be generated by sources outside the room.

[0626] Respiratory Pressure Therapy (RPT): The application of a supply of air to an entrance to the

airways at a treatment pressure that is typically positive with respect to atmosphere.

[0627] Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) therapy: Respiratory pressure therapy in which the treatment pressure is approximately constant through a respiratory cycle of a patient. In some forms, the pressure at the entrance to the airways will be slightly higher during exhalation, and slightly lower during inhalation. In some forms, the pressure will vary between different respiratory cycles of the patient, for example, being increased in response to detection of indications of partial upper airway obstruction, and decreased in the absence of indications of partial upper airway obstruction.

[0628] Patient: A person, whether or not they are suffering from a respiratory disease.

[0629] Automatic Positive Airway Pressure (APAP) therapy: CPAP therapy in which the treatment pressure is automatically adjustable, e.g. from breath to breath, between minimum and maximum limits, depending on the presence or absence of indications of SDB events.

5.8.2 Aspects of the Respiratory Cycle

[0630] Apnea: According to some definitions, an apnea is said to have occurred when flow falls below a predetermined threshold for a duration, e.g. 10 seconds. An obstructive apnea will be said to have occurred when, despite patient effort, some obstruction of the airway does not allow air to flow. A central apnea will be said to have occurred when an apnea is detected that is due to a reduction in breathing effort, or the absence of breathing effort, despite the airway being patent. A mixed apnea occurs when a reduction or absence of breathing effort coincides with an obstructed airway.

[0631] Breathing rate: The rate of spontaneous respiration of a patient, usually measured in breaths per minute.

[0632] Duty cycle: The ratio of inhalation time, T_i to total breath time, T_{tot} .

[0633] Effort (breathing): Breathing effort will be said to be the work done by a spontaneously breathing person attempting to breathe.

[0634] Expiratory portion of a breathing cycle: The period from the start of expiratory flow to the start of inspiratory flow.

[0635] Flow limitation: Flow limitation will be taken to be the state of affairs in a patient's respiration where an increase in effort by the patient does not give rise to a corresponding increase in flow. Where flow limitation occurs during an inspiratory portion of the breathing cycle it may be described as inspiratory flow limitation. Where flow limitation occurs during an expiratory portion of the breathing cycle it may be described as expiratory flow limitation.

[0636] Types of flow limited inspiratory waveforms:

[0637] (i) Flattened: Having a rise followed by a relatively flat portion, followed by a fall.

[0638] (ii) M-shaped: Having two local peaks, one at the leading edge, and one at the trailing edge, and a relatively flat portion between the two peaks.

[0639] (iii) Chair-shaped: Having a single local peak, the peak being at the leading edge, followed by a relatively flat portion.

[0640] (iv) Reverse-chair shaped: Having a relatively flat portion followed by single local peak, the peak being at the trailing edge.

[0641] Hypopnea: Preferably, a hypopnea will be taken to be a reduction in flow, but not a cessation of flow. In one form, a hypopnea may be said to have occurred when there is a reduction in flow below a threshold rate for a duration. A central hypopnea will be said to have occurred when a hypopnea is detected that is due to a reduction in breathing effort. In one form in adults, either of the following may be regarded as being hypopneas: [0642] (i) a 30% reduction in patient breathing for at least 10 seconds plus an associated 4% desaturation; or [0643] (ii) a reduction in patient breathing (but less than 50%) for at least 10 seconds, with an associated desaturation of at least 3% or an arousal.

[0644] Hyperpnea: An increase in flow to a level higher than normal flow rate.

[0645] Inspiratory portion of a breathing cycle: The period from the start of inspiratory flow to the

start of expiratory flow will be taken to be the inspiratory portion of a breathing cycle.

[0646] Patency (airway): The degree of the airway being open, or the extent to which the airway is open. A patent airway is open. Airway patency may be quantified, for example with a value of one (1) being patent, and a value of zero (0), being closed (obstructed).

[0647] Positive End-Expiratory Pressure (PEEP): The pressure above atmosphere in the lungs that exists at the end of expiration.

[0648] Peak flow rate (Q_{peak}): The maximum value of flow rate during the inspiratory portion of the respiratory flow waveform.

[0649] Respiratory flow rate, airflow rate, patient airflow rate, respiratory airflow rate (Q_r): These synonymous terms may be understood to refer to the RPT device's estimate of respiratory airflow rate, as opposed to "true respiratory flow" or "true respiratory airflow", which is the actual respiratory flow rate experienced by the patient, usually expressed in litres per minute.

[0650] Tidal volume (V_t): The volume of air inhaled or exhaled during normal breathing, when extra effort is not applied.

[0651] (inhalation) Time (T_i): The duration of the inspiratory portion of the respiratory flow rate waveform.

[0652] (exhalation) Time (T_e): The duration of the expiratory portion of the respiratory flow rate waveform.

[0653] (total) Time (T_{tot}): The total duration between the start of the inspiratory portion of one respiratory flow rate waveform and the start of the inspiratory portion of the following respiratory flow rate waveform.

[0654] Typical recent ventilation: The value of ventilation around which recent values over some predetermined timescale tend to cluster, that is, a measure of the central tendency of the recent values of ventilation.

[0655] Upper airway obstruction (UAO): includes both partial and total upper airway obstruction. This may be associated with a state of flow limitation, in which the level of flow increases only slightly or may even decrease as the pressure difference across the upper airway increases (Starling resistor behaviour).

[0656] Ventilation (Vent): A measure of the total amount of gas being exchanged by the patient's respiratory system. Measures of ventilation may include one or both of inspiratory and expiratory flow, per unit time. When expressed as a volume per minute, this quantity is often referred to as "minute ventilation". Minute ventilation is sometimes given simply as a volume, understood to be the volume per minute.

5.8.3 RPT Device Parameters

[0657] Flow rate: The instantaneous volume (or mass) of air delivered per unit time. While flow rate and ventilation have the same dimensions of volume or mass per unit time, flow rate is measured over a much shorter period of time. In some cases, a reference to flow rate will be a reference to a scalar quantity, namely a quantity having magnitude only. In other cases, a reference to flow rate will be a reference to a vector quantity, namely a quantity having both magnitude and direction. Where it is referred to as a signed quantity, a flow rate may be nominally positive for the inspiratory portion of a breathing cycle of a patient, and hence negative for the expiratory portion of the breathing cycle of a patient. Flow rate will be given the symbol Q . 'Flow rate' is sometimes shortened to simply 'flow'. Total flow rate, Q_t , is the flow rate of air leaving the RPT device. Vent flow rate, Q_v , is the flow rate of air leaving a vent to allow washout of exhaled gases. Leak flow rate, Q_l , is the flow rate of leak from a patient interface system. Respiratory flow rate, Q_r , is the flow rate of air that is received into the patient's respiratory system.

[0658] Leak: The word leak will be taken to be an unintended flow of air. In one example, leak may occur as the result of an incomplete seal between a mask and a patient's face. In another example leak may occur in a swivel elbow to the ambient.

[0659] Noise, conducted (acoustic): Conducted noise in the present document refers to noise which

is carried to the patient by the pneumatic path, such as the air circuit and the patient interface as well as the air therein. In one form, conducted noise may be quantified by measuring sound pressure levels at the end of an air circuit.

[0660] Noise, radiated (acoustic): Radiated noise in the present document refers to noise which is carried to the patient by the ambient air. In one form, radiated noise may be quantified by measuring sound power/pressure levels of the object in question according to ISO 3744.

[0661] Noise, vent (acoustic): Vent noise in the present document refers to noise which is generated by the flow of air through any vents such as vent holes in the patient interface.

[0662] Pressure: Force per unit area. Pressure may be measured in a range of units, including cmH.sub.2O, g-f/cm.sup.2, hectopascal. 1 cmH.sub.2O is equal to 1 g-f/cm.sup.2 and is approximately 0.98 hectopascal. In this specification, unless otherwise stated, pressure is given in units of cmH.sub.2O. The pressure in the patient interface is given the symbol P_m , while the treatment pressure, which represents a target value to be achieved by the mask pressure P_m at the current instant of time, is given the symbol P_t .

[0663] Sound Power: The energy per unit time carried by a sound wave. The sound power is proportional to the square of sound pressure multiplied by the area of the wavefront. Sound power is usually given in decibels SWL, that is, decibels relative to a reference power, normally taken as 10.sup.-12 watt.

[0664] Sound Pressure: The local deviation from ambient pressure at a given time instant as a result of a sound wave travelling through a medium. Sound pressure is usually given in decibels SPL, that is, decibels relative to a reference pressure, normally taken as 20×10^{-6} Pascal (Pa), considered the threshold of human hearing.

5.8.4 Terms for Ventilators

[0665] Adaptive Servo-Ventilator (ASV): A servo-ventilator that has a changeable, rather than fixed target ventilation. The changeable target ventilation may be learned from some characteristic of the patient, for example, a respiratory characteristic of the patient.

[0666] Backup rate: A parameter of a ventilator that establishes the minimum breathing rate (typically in number of breaths per minute) that the ventilator will deliver to the patient, if not triggered by spontaneous respiratory effort.

[0667] Cycled: The termination of a ventilator's inspiratory phase. When a ventilator delivers a breath to a spontaneously breathing patient, at the end of the inspiratory portion of the breathing cycle, the ventilator is said to be cycled to stop delivering the breath.

[0668] Expiratory positive airway pressure (EPAP): a base pressure, to which a pressure varying within the breath is added to produce the desired mask pressure which the ventilator will attempt to achieve at a given time.

[0669] End expiratory pressure (EEP): Desired mask pressure which the ventilator will attempt to achieve at the end of the expiratory portion of the breath. If the pressure waveform template $\square(\square)$ is zero-valued at the end of expiration, i.e. $\square(\square)=0$ when $\square=1$, the EEP is equal to the EPAP.

[0670] Inspiratory positive airway pressure (IPAP): Maximum desired mask pressure which the ventilator will attempt to achieve during the inspiratory portion of the breath.

[0671] Pressure support: A number that is indicative of the increase in pressure during ventilator inspiration over that during ventilator expiration, and generally means the difference in pressure between the maximum value during inspiration and the base pressure (e.g., $PS=IPAP-EPAP$). In some contexts pressure support means the difference which the ventilator aims to achieve, rather than what it actually achieves.

[0672] Servo-ventilator: A ventilator that measures patient ventilation, has a target ventilation, and which adjusts the level of pressure support to bring the patient ventilation towards the target ventilation.

[0673] Spontaneous/Timed (S/T): A mode of a ventilator or other device that attempts to detect the initiation of a breath of a spontaneously breathing patient. If however, the device is unable to detect

a breath within a predetermined period of time, the device will automatically initiate delivery of the breath.

[0674] Swing: Equivalent term to pressure support.

[0675] Triggered: When a ventilator delivers a breath of air to a spontaneously breathing patient, it is said to be triggered to do so at the initiation of the respiratory portion of the breathing cycle by the patient's efforts.

[0676] Typical recent ventilation: The typical recent ventilation V_{typ} is the value around which recent measures of ventilation over some predetermined timescale tend to cluster. For example, a measure of the central tendency of the measures of ventilation over recent history may be a suitable value of a typical recent ventilation.

[0677] Ventilator: A mechanical device that provides pressure support to a patient to perform some or all of the work of breathing.

5.8.5 Anatomy of the Face

[0678] Ala: the external outer wall or “wing” of each nostril (plural: alar)

[0679] Alare: The most lateral point on the nasal ala.

[0680] Alar curvature (or alar crest) point: The most posterior point in the curved base line of each ala, found in the crease formed by the union of the ala with the cheek.

[0681] Auricle: The whole external visible part of the ear.

[0682] (nose) Bony framework: The bony framework of the nose comprises the nasal bones, the frontal process of the maxillae and the nasal part of the frontal bone.

[0683] (nose) Cartilaginous framework: The cartilaginous framework of the nose comprises the septal, lateral, major and minor cartilages.

[0684] Columella: the strip of skin that separates the nares and which runs from the pronasale to the upper lip.

[0685] Columella angle: The angle between the line drawn through the midpoint of the nostril aperture and a line drawn perpendicular to the Frankfurt horizontal while intersecting subnasale.

[0686] Frankfort horizontal plane: A line extending from the most inferior point of the orbital margin to the left tragon. The tragon is the deepest point in the notch superior to the tragus of the auricle.

[0687] Glabella: Located on the soft tissue, the most prominent point in the midsagittal plane of the forehead.

[0688] Lateral nasal cartilage: A generally triangular plate of cartilage. Its superior margin is attached to the nasal bone and frontal process of the maxilla, and its inferior margin is connected to the greater alar cartilage.

[0689] Greater alar cartilage: A plate of cartilage lying below the lateral nasal cartilage. It is curved around the anterior part of the naris. Its posterior end is connected to the frontal process of the maxilla by a tough fibrous membrane containing three or four minor cartilages of the ala.

[0690] Nares (Nostrils): Approximately ellipsoidal apertures forming the entrance to the nasal cavity. The singular form of nares is naris (nostril). The nares are separated by the nasal septum.

[0691] Naso-labial sulcus or Naso-labial fold: The skin fold or groove that runs from each side of the nose to the corners of the mouth, separating the cheeks from the upper lip.

[0692] Naso-labial angle: The angle between the columella and the upper lip, while intersecting subnasale.

[0693] Otobasion inferior: The lowest point of attachment of the auricle to the skin of the face.

[0694] Otobasion superior: The highest point of attachment of the auricle to the skin of the face.

[0695] Pronasale: the most protruded point or tip of the nose, which can be identified in lateral view of the rest of the portion of the head.

[0696] Philtrum: the midline groove that runs from lower border of the nasal septum to the top of the lip in the upper lip region.

[0697] Pogonion: Located on the soft tissue, the most anterior midpoint of the chin.

[0698] Ridge (nasal): The nasal ridge is the midline prominence of the nose, extending from the Sellion to the Pronasale.

[0699] Sagittal plane: A vertical plane that passes from anterior (front) to posterior (rear) dividing the body into right and left halves.

[0700] Sellion: Located on the soft tissue, the most concave point overlying the area of the frontonasal suture.

[0701] Septal cartilage (nasal): The nasal septal cartilage forms part of the septum and divides the front part of the nasal cavity.

[0702] Subalare: The point at the lower margin of the alar base, where the alar base joins with the skin of the superior (upper) lip.

[0703] Subnasal point: Located on the soft tissue, the point at which the columella merges with the upper lip in the midsagittal plane.

[0704] Supramentale: The point of greatest concavity in the midline of the lower lip between labrale inferius and soft tissue pogonion

5.8.6 Anatomy of the Skull

[0705] Frontal bone: The frontal bone includes a large vertical portion, the squama frontalis, corresponding to the region known as the forehead.

[0706] Mandible: The mandible forms the lower jaw. The mental protuberance is the bony protuberance of the jaw that forms the chin.

[0707] Maxilla: The maxilla forms the upper jaw and is located above the mandible and below the orbits. The frontal process of the maxilla projects upwards by the side of the nose, and forms part of its lateral boundary.

[0708] Nasal bones: The nasal bones are two small oblong bones, varying in size and form in different individuals; they are placed side by side at the middle and upper part of the face, and form, by their junction, the “bridge” of the nose.

[0709] Nasion: The intersection of the frontal bone and the two nasal bones, a depressed area directly between the eyes and superior to the bridge of the nose.

[0710] Occipital bone: The occipital bone is situated at the back and lower part of the cranium. It includes an oval aperture, the foramen magnum, through which the cranial cavity communicates with the vertebral canal. The curved plate behind the foramen magnum is the squama occipitalis.

[0711] Orbit: The bony cavity in the skull to contain the eyeball.

[0712] Parietal bones: The parietal bones are the bones that, when joined together, form the roof and sides of the cranium.

[0713] Temporal bones: The temporal bones are situated on the bases and sides of the skull, and support that part of the face known as the temple.

[0714] Zygomatic bones: The face includes two zygomatic bones, located in the upper and lateral parts of the face and forming the prominence of the cheek.

5.8.7 Anatomy of the Respiratory System

[0715] Diaphragm: A sheet of muscle that extends across the bottom of the rib cage. The diaphragm separates the thoracic cavity, containing the heart, lungs and ribs, from the abdominal cavity. As the diaphragm contracts the volume of the thoracic cavity increases and air is drawn into the lungs.

[0716] Larynx: The larynx, or voice box houses the vocal folds and connects the inferior part of the pharynx (hypopharynx) with the trachea.

[0717] Lungs: The organs of respiration in humans. The conducting zone of the lungs contains the trachea, the bronchi, the bronchioles, and the terminal bronchioles. The respiratory zone contains the respiratory bronchioles, the alveolar ducts, and the alveoli.

[0718] Nasal cavity: The nasal cavity (or nasal fossa) is a large air filled space above and behind the nose in the middle of the face. The nasal cavity is divided in two by a vertical fin called the nasal septum. On the sides of the nasal cavity are three horizontal outgrowths called nasal conchae

(singular “concha”) or turbinates. To the front of the nasal cavity is the nose, while the back blends, via the choanae, into the nasopharynx.

[0719] Pharynx: The part of the throat situated immediately inferior to (below) the nasal cavity, and superior to the oesophagus and larynx. The pharynx is conventionally divided into three sections: the nasopharynx (epipharynx) (the nasal part of the pharynx), the oropharynx (mesopharynx) (the oral part of the pharynx), and the laryngopharynx (hypopharynx).

5.8.8 Materials

[0720] Silicone or Silicone Elastomer: A synthetic rubber. In this specification, a reference to silicone is a reference to liquid silicone rubber (LSR) or a compression moulded silicone rubber (CMSR). One form of commercially available LSR is SILASTIC (included in the range of products sold under this trademark), manufactured by Dow Corning. Another manufacturer of LSR is Wacker. Unless otherwise specified to the contrary, an exemplary form of LSR has a Shore A (or Type A) indentation hardness in the range of about 35 to about 45 as measured using ASTM D2240.

[0721] Polycarbonate: a typically transparent thermoplastic polymer of Bisphenol-A Carbonate.

5.8.9 Aspects of a Patient Interface

[0722] Anti-asphyxia valve (AAV): The component or sub-assembly of a mask system that, by opening to atmosphere in a failsafe manner, reduces the risk of excessive CO₂ rebreathing by a patient.

[0723] Elbow: A conduit that directs an axis of flow of air to change direction through an angle. In one form, the angle may be approximately 90 degrees. In another form, the angle may be less than 90 degrees. The conduit may have an approximately circular cross-section. In another form the conduit may have an oval or a rectangular cross-section.

[0724] Frame: Frame will be taken to mean a mask structure that bears the load of tension between two or more points of connection with a headgear. A mask frame may be a non-airtight load bearing structure in the mask. However, some forms of mask frame may also be air-tight.

[0725] Headgear: Headgear will be taken to mean a form of positioning and stabilizing structure designed for use on a head. Preferably the headgear comprises a collection of one or more struts, ties and stiffeners configured to locate and retain a patient interface in position on a patient's face for delivery of respiratory therapy. Some ties are formed of a soft, flexible, elastic material such as a laminated composite of foam and fabric.

[0726] Membrane: Membrane will be taken to mean a typically thin element that has, preferably, substantially no resistance to bending, but has resistance to being stretched.

[0727] Plenum chamber: a mask plenum chamber will be taken to mean a portion of a patient interface having walls at least partially enclosing a volume of space, the volume having air therein pressurised above atmospheric pressure in use. A shell may form part of the walls of a mask plenum chamber.

[0728] Seal: The noun form (“a seal”) will be taken to mean a structure or barrier that intentionally resists the flow of air through the interface of two surfaces. The verb form (“to seal”) will be taken to mean to resist a flow of air.

[0729] Shell: A shell will be taken to mean a curved, relatively thin structure having bending, tensile and compressive stiffness. For example, a curved structural wall of a mask may be a shell. In some forms, a shell may be faceted. In some forms a shell may be airtight. In some forms a shell may not be airtight.

[0730] Stiffener: A stiffener will be taken to mean a structural component designed to increase the bending resistance of another component in at least one direction.

[0731] Strut: A strut will be taken to be a structural component designed to increase the compression resistance of another component in at least one direction.

[0732] Swivel: (noun) A subassembly of components configured to rotate about a common axis, preferably independently, preferably under low torque. In one form, the swivel may be constructed

to rotate through an angle of at least 360 degrees. In another form, the swivel may be constructed to rotate through an angle less than 360 degrees. When used in the context of an air delivery conduit, the sub-assembly of components preferably comprises a matched pair of cylindrical conduits. There may be little or no leak flow of air from the swivel in use.

[0733] Tie: A tie will be taken to be a structural component designed to resist tension.

[0734] Vent: (noun) the structure that allows a flow of air from an interior of the mask, or conduit, to ambient air to allow clinically effective washout of exhaled gases. For example, a clinically effective washout may involve a flow rate of about 10 litres per minute to about 100 litres per minute, depending on the mask design and treatment pressure.

5.8.10 Terms Used in Relation to Patient Interface

[0735] Curvature (of a surface): A region of a surface having a saddle shape, which curves up in one direction and curves down in a different direction, will be said to have a negative curvature. A region of a surface having a dome shape, which curves the same way in two principal directions, will be said to have a positive curvature. A flat surface will be taken to have zero curvature.

[0736] Floppy: A quality of a material, structure or composite that is one or more of: [0737]

Readily conforming to finger pressure. [0738] Unable to retain its shape when caused to support its own weight. [0739] Not rigid. [0740] Able to be stretched or bent elastically with little effort.

[0741] The quality of being floppy may have an associated direction, hence a particular material, structure or composite may be floppy in a first direction, but stiff or rigid in a second direction, for example a second direction that is orthogonal to the first direction.

[0742] Resilient: Able to deform substantially elastically, and to release substantially all of the energy upon unloading, within a relatively short period of time such as 1 second.

[0743] Rigid: Not readily deforming to finger pressure, and/or the tensions or loads typically encountered when setting up and maintaining a patient interface in sealing relationship with an entrance to a patient's airways.

[0744] Semi-rigid: means being sufficiently rigid to not substantially distort under the effects of mechanical forces typically applied during respiratory pressure therapy.

5.8.11 Curvature

[0745] Products in accordance with the present technology may comprise one or more real three-dimensional structures, for example a mask cushion or an impeller. The three-dimensional structures may be bounded by two-dimensional surfaces. These surfaces may be distinguished using a label to describe an associated surface orientation, location, function, or some other characteristic. For example a structure may comprise one or more of an anterior surface, a posterior surface, an interior surface and an exterior surface. In another example, a cushion structure may comprise a face-contacting (e.g. outer) surface, and a separate non-face-contacting (e.g. underside or inner) surface. In another example, a structure may comprise a first surface and a second surface.

[0746] To facilitate describing the shape of the three-dimensional structures and the surfaces, we first consider a cross-section through a surface of the structure at a point, p. See FIG. 3B to FIG. 3F, which illustrate examples of cross-sections at point p on a surface, and the resulting plane curves. FIGS. 3B to 3F also illustrate an outward normal vector at p. The outward normal vector at p points away from the surface. In some examples we describe the surface from the point of view of an imaginary small person standing upright on the surface.

5.8.11.1 Curvature in One Dimension

[0747] The curvature of a plane curve at p may be described as having a sign (e.g. positive, negative) and a magnitude (e.g. $1/\text{radius}$ of a circle that just touches the curve at p).

[0748] Positive curvature: If the curve at p turns towards the outward normal, the curvature at that point will be taken to be positive (if the imaginary small person leaves the point p they must walk uphill). See FIG. 3B (relatively large positive curvature compared to FIG. 3C) and FIG. 3C (relatively small positive curvature compared to FIG. 3B). Such curves are often referred to as concave.

[0749] Zero curvature: If the curve at p is a straight line, the curvature will be taken to be zero (if the imaginary small person leaves the point p , they can walk on a level, neither up nor down). See FIG. 3D.

[0750] Negative curvature: If the curve at p turns away from the outward normal, the curvature in that direction at that point will be taken to be negative (if the imaginary small person leaves the point p they must walk downhill). See FIG. 3E (relatively small negative curvature compared to FIG. 3F) and FIG. 3F (relatively large negative curvature compared to FIG. 3E). Such curves are often referred to as convex.

5.8.11.2 Curvature of Two Dimensional Surfaces

[0751] A description of the shape at a given point on a two-dimensional surface in accordance with the present technology may include multiple normal cross-sections. The multiple cross-sections may cut the surface in a plane that includes the outward normal (a “normal plane”), and each cross-section may be taken in a different direction. Each cross-section results in a plane curve with a corresponding curvature.

[0752] The different curvatures at that point may have the same sign, or a different sign. Each of the curvatures at that point has a magnitude, e.g. relatively small. The plane curves in FIGS. 3B to 3F could be examples of such multiple cross-sections at a particular point.

[0753] Principal curvatures and directions: The directions of the normal planes where the curvature of the curve takes its maximum and minimum values are called the principal directions. In the examples of FIG. 3B to FIG. 3F, the maximum curvature occurs in FIG. 3B, and the minimum occurs in FIG. 3F, hence FIG. 3B and FIG. 3F are cross sections in the principal directions. The principal curvatures at p are the curvatures in the principal directions.

[0754] Region of a surface: A set of points on a surface. The set of points in a region may have similar characteristics, e.g. curvatures or signs.

[0755] Saddle region: A region where at each point, the principal curvatures have opposite signs, that is, one is positive, and the other is negative (depending on the direction to which the imaginary person turns, they may walk uphill or downhill).

[0756] Dome region: A region where at each point the principal curvatures have the same sign, e.g. both positive (a “concave dome”) or both negative (a “convex dome”).

[0757] Cylindrical region: A region where one principal curvature is zero (or, for example, zero within manufacturing tolerances) and the other principal curvature is non-zero.

[0758] Planar region: A region of a surface where both of the principal curvatures are zero (or, for example, zero within manufacturing tolerances).

[0759] Edge of a surface: A boundary or limit of a surface.

[0760] Path: In certain forms of the present technology, ‘path’ will be taken to mean a path in the mathematical-topological sense, e.g. a continuous space curve from $f(0)$ to $f(1)$ on a surface. In certain forms of the present technology, a ‘path’ may be described as a route or course, including e.g. a set of points on a surface. (The path for the imaginary person is where they walk on the surface, and is analogous to a garden path).

[0761] Path length: In certain forms of the present technology, ‘path length’ will be taken to the distance along the surface from $f(0)$ to $f(1)$, that is, the distance along the path on the surface. There may be more than one path between two points on a surface and such paths may have different path lengths. (The path length for the imaginary person would be the distance they have to walk on the surface along the path).

[0762] Straight-line distance: The straight-line distance is the distance between two points on a surface, but without regard to the surface. On planar regions, there would be a path on the surface having the same path length as the straight-line distance between two points on the surface. On non-planar surfaces, there may be no paths having the same path length as the straight-line distance between two points. (For the imaginary person, the straight-line distance would correspond to the distance ‘as the crow flies’.)

5.9 Other Remarks

[0763] Unless the context clearly dictates otherwise and where a range of values is provided, it is understood that each intervening value, to the tenth of the unit of the lower limit, between the upper and lower limit of that range, and any other stated or intervening value in that stated range is encompassed within the technology. The upper and lower limits of these intervening ranges, which may be independently included in the intervening ranges, are also encompassed within the technology, subject to any specifically excluded limit in the stated range. Where the stated range includes one or both of the limits, ranges excluding either or both of those included limits are also included in the technology.

[0764] Furthermore, where a value or values are stated herein as being implemented as part of the technology, it is understood that such values may be approximated, unless otherwise stated, and such values may be utilized to any suitable significant digit to the extent that a practical technical implementation may permit or require it.

[0765] Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this technology belongs. Although any methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can also be used in the practice or testing of the present technology, a limited number of the exemplary methods and materials are described herein.

[0766] When a particular material is identified as being used to construct a component, obvious alternative materials with similar properties may be used as a substitute. Furthermore, unless specified to the contrary, any and all components herein described are understood to be capable of being manufactured and, as such, may be manufactured together or separately.

[0767] It must be noted that as used herein and in the appended claims, the singular forms “a”, “an”, and “the” include their plural equivalents, unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

[0768] All publications mentioned herein are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety to disclose and describe the methods and/or materials which are the subject of those publications. The publications discussed herein are provided solely for their disclosure prior to the filing date of the present application. Nothing herein is to be construed as an admission that the present technology is not entitled to antedate such publication by virtue of prior invention. Further, the dates of publication provided may be different from the actual publication dates, which may need to be independently confirmed.

[0769] The terms “comprises” and “comprising” should be interpreted as referring to elements, components, or steps in a non-exclusive manner, indicating that the referenced elements, components, or steps may be present, or utilized, or combined with other elements, components, or steps that are not expressly referenced.

[0770] The subject headings used in the detailed description are included only for the ease of reference of the reader and should not be used to limit the subject matter found throughout the disclosure or the claims. The subject headings should not be used in construing the scope of the claims or the claim limitations.

[0771] Although the technology herein has been described with reference to particular examples, it is to be understood that these examples are merely illustrative of the principles and applications of the technology. In some instances, the terminology and symbols may imply specific details that are not required to practice the technology. For example, although the terms “first” and “second” may be used, unless otherwise specified, they are not intended to indicate any order but may be utilized to distinguish between distinct elements. Furthermore, although process steps in the methodologies may be described or illustrated in an order, such an ordering is not required. Those skilled in the art will recognize that such ordering may be modified and/or aspects thereof may be conducted concurrently or even synchronously.

[0772] It is therefore to be understood that numerous modifications may be made to the illustrative examples and that other arrangements may be devised without departing from the spirit and scope

of the technology.

[0773] Also, it should be appreciated that one or more aspects of the present technology may be combinable with one or more aspects of: PCT Application No. PCT/AU2016/050891, filed Sep. 23, 2016 and entitled “Patient Interface”, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/222,593, filed Sep. 23, 2015 and U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/376,961, filed Aug. 19, 2016; U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/377,217, filed Aug. 19, 2016 and entitled “Patient Interface with a Seal-Forming Structure having Varying Thickness”; U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/377,158, filed Aug. 19, 2016 and entitled “Patient Interface with a Seal-Forming Structure having Varying Thickness”; PCT Application No. PCT/AU2016/050892, filed Sep. 23, 2016 and entitled “Elbow Assembly”, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/222,435, filed Sep. 23, 2015 and U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/376,718, filed Aug. 18, 2016; U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/377,217, filed Aug. 19, 2016 and entitled “Patient Interface with a Seal-Forming Structure having Varying Thickness”; U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/377,158, filed Aug. 19, 2016 and entitled “Patient Interface with a Seal-Forming Structure having Varying Thickness”; and/or PCT Application No. PCT/AU2016/050228 filed Mar. 24, 2016 and entitled “Patient Interface with Blowout Prevention for Seal-Forming Portion”, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/138,009, filed Mar. 25, 2015 and U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/222,503, filed Sep. 23, 2015; each of the above-noted applications of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

TABLE-US-00003 5.10 REFERENCE CHARACTERS LIST patient 1000 bed partner 1100 patient interface 3000 seal-forming structure 3100 plenum chamber 3200 positioning and stabilising structure 3300 rigidiser arm 3301 superior attachment point 3302 inferior strap connector 3303 inferior attachment point 3304 shroud 3305 clip 3306 hinge 3307 vent 3400 orifice 3402 wall 3404 diffusing member 3406 blocking member 3408 channels 3410 hole 3412 central hole 3414 radial opening 3416 elbow 3418 wall 3420 cap 3422 annular flange 3424 annular gap 3426 annular groove 3428 annular protrusion 3430 lip 3432 ball 3434 socket 3436 snap fit connection 3438 first half 3440 second half 3442 decoupling structure 3500 connection port 3600 forehead support 3700 RPT device 4000 external housing 4010 upper portion 4012 lower portion 4014 panel 4015 chassis 4016 handle 4018 pneumatic block 4020 mechanical and pneumatic components 4100 air filter 4110 inlet air filter 4112 outlet air filter 4114 muffler 4120 inlet muffler 4122 outlet muffler 4124 pressure generator 4140 blower 4142 motor 4144 anti-spill back valve 4160 air circuit 4170 heated air circuit 4171 tube 4172 RPT device connector 4173 vent adaptor connector 4174 bayonet connector 4175 grip recess 4176 seal 4177 tube connector 4178 supplemental oxygen 4180 electrical components 4200 printed circuit board assembly (PCBA) 4202 power supply 4210 input device 4220 central controller 4230 therapy device controller 4240 protection circuits 4250 memory 4260 transducer 4270 data communication interface 4280 output device 4290 algorithms 4300 pre-processing module 4310 pressure compensation algorithm 4312 vent flow rate estimation algorithm 4314 leak flow rate estimation algorithm 4316 respiratory flow rate estimation algorithm 4318 therapy engine module 4320 fuzzy phase determination algorithm 4321 waveform determination algorithm 4322 ventilation determination algorithm 4323 inspiratory flow limitation determination algorithm 4324 apnea/hypopnea determination algorithm 4325 snore determination algorithm 4326 airway patency determination algorithm 4327 target ventilation determination algorithm 4328 therapy parameter determination algorithm 4329 therapy control module 4330 fault condition detection 4340 therapy device 4350 humidifier 5000 humidifier inlet 5002 humidifier outlet 5004 humidifier base 5006 humidifier reservoir 5110 conductive portion 5120 humidifier reservoir dock 5130 locking lever 5135 water level indicator 5150 humidifier transducer 5210 pressure transducer 5212 air flow rate transducer 5214 temperature transducer 5216 humidity sensor 5218 heating element 5240 humidifier controller 5250 central humidifier controller 5251 heating element controller 5252 air circuit

controller 5254 HME 7000 layer 7001 corrugated structure 7002 top structure 7010 superior channel 7012 base structure 7020 inferior channel 7022 corrugation 7030 upper folded portion 7031 fluid connector 9000 first end 9002 second end 9004 fluid conduit 9006 seal portion 9008 first opening 9010 latching portion 9012 complementary latching portion 9014 sealing surface 9016 second opening 9018 second tube 9020 first tube 9022 inner portion 9024 outer portion 9026 interface 9028 stop 9030 port 9032 overhang portion 9034 pressure tap 9036 guide portion 9038 vent adaptor 9100 conduit connector 9110 conduit end 9111 vent adaptor end 9112 anti-asphyxia valve (AAV) openings 9113 ring 9115 air circuit connector 9116 bayonet connector 9117 vent housing 9120 end 9121 protrusions 9122 tab 9123 lip 9124 external vent hole 9125 internal vent hole 9126 shoulder 9127 support 9128 notches 9129 vent diffuser cover 9130 anti-asphyxia valve (AAV) 9135 flap 9140 flap retaining structure 9141 HME material 9145 diffuser 9146 diffuser opening 9147 diffuser retaining ring 9148 radial diffuser retainer 9149 CFV ring 9150 vent housing connector 9160 first bar 9161 second bar 9162 receptacle 9163 notch 9164 curved outer surface 9165 bayonet connector 9166 HME clip 9170 arm 9171 central shaft 9172 shaft end 9173 arm ends 9174 HME housing 9180 slots 9181 cross-member 9182 receiver 9183 outer wall 9184 cut-outs 9185 bellows seal 9190 bellows seal connector 9191 outer surface 9192 inner surface 9193 shoulder surface 9194 vent adaptor connector 9200 orifice 9201 rim 9202 rim 9203 short tube assembly 9210 tube 9212 tube-housing connector 9214 tube-elbow connector 9216 elbow assembly 9220 elbow frame 9222 elbow overmould 9224 vent core structure 9300 inlet 9301 air circuit connector 9302 clip 9304 vent core extension 9306 outer orifices 9308 inner orifices 9310 alignment structure 9312 vent housing 9320 bayonet connector 9322 membrane retainer 9324 vent diffuser cover 9330 cover spacers 9332 connection surface 9334 posterior vent outlet 9340 anterior vent outlet 9342 HME housing 9400 patient-side HME housing portion 9402 atmosphere-side HME housing portion 9404 patient-side HME housing portion cross-bar 9406 atmosphere-side HME housing portion cross-bar 9408 opening 9410 tab 9412 atmosphere-side HME housing portion ring 9414 HME inner housing 9416 HME bypass passage 9418 lip seal 9500 baffle 9600 plenum chamber connector 9700 nasal cushion patient interface 3000A nasal pillows patient interface 3000B full face patient interface 3000C vent system 13400 vent housing 13401 outer wall 13402 outer base 13403 outer orifice 13404 lateral membrane support 13405 inner base 13406 inner orifice 13407 base connector 13408 membrane spacer 13409 inner wall 13410 inlet 13411 membrane spacer gap 13412 inner base slot 13413 recess divider 13414 recess 13415 membrane 13430 membrane opening 13431 patient-side surface 13432 atmosphere-side surface 13433 inner surface 13434 outer surface 13435

Claims

1-20. (canceled)

21. A vent system comprising: a vent housing comprising a base having a first orifice extending through the base to allow a vent flow of gas to be discharged to atmosphere to discharge gas exhaled by a patient from a pressurized volume, the vent flow of gas being continuous during respiratory therapy; a second orifice to allow gas to be discharged to atmosphere from the pressurized volume; a vent housing connector having an outlet opening configured to direct a therapy flow of gas pressurized above ambient pressure to a patient interface worn by the patient during respiratory therapy; a heat and moisture exchanger (HME) comprising an HME housing and an HME material within the HME housing; and a membrane positioned adjacent to the base, wherein the vent housing and the vent housing connector are configured to be connected to, at least in part, form a cavity, and wherein the HME is configured to be positioned in the cavity when the vent system is assembled, wherein the pressurized volume is in fluid communication with atmosphere through the first orifice and the second orifice throughout a therapeutic pressure range,

wherein the vent housing comprises an outer wall and an inner wall, the inner wall defining an inlet for the therapy flow of gas, wherein the base is positioned between the outer wall and the inner wall, and wherein the membrane is elastically deformable due to pressure within the pressurized volume to apportion the vent flow of gas between the first orifice and the second orifice throughout the therapeutic pressure range.

22. The vent system of claim 21, wherein the membrane is constructed from silicone.

23. The vent system of claim 21, wherein the vent housing is formed from a single, homogeneous piece of a relatively rigid material.

24. The vent system of claim 23, wherein the relatively rigid material is polycarbonate.

25. The vent system of claim 21, wherein the base further comprises an inner base and an outer base.

26. The vent system of claim 25, wherein the outer base is adjacent to the outer wall, the inner base is adjacent to the outer base, and the inner base is adjacent to the inner wall.

27. The vent system of claim 26, further comprising a plurality of first orifices and a plurality of second orifices, and the plurality of first orifices being positioned radially inward of the plurality of second orifices.

28. The vent system of claim 27, wherein the plurality of second orifices pass through the outer base and the plurality of first orifices pass between the outer base and the inner base.

29. The vent system of claim 27, further comprising a plurality of membrane spacers extending from the inner base, and wherein the membrane is spaced from the plurality of first orifices by the membrane spacers.

30. The vent system of claim 25, wherein the outer wall, the inner wall, the inner base, the outer base, and the membrane are circular.

31. The vent system of claim 30, wherein the outer wall, the inner wall, the inner base, the outer base, and the membrane are concentric.

32. The vent system of claim 21, wherein the membrane is not attached to the vent housing such that the membrane is freely movable towards and away from the base.

33. The vent system of claim 21, wherein, the HME, including the HME housing and the HME material, are removable from the cavity.

34. The vent system of claim 21, further comprising an elbow having a first end configured to be connected to an air circuit and a second end opposite the first end, wherein the vent housing is connected to the second end.

35. The vent system of claim 21, further comprising a tube assembly connected to the vent housing connector and configured to fluidly connect to a connection port of a plenum chamber of the patient interface.

36. The vent system of claim 35, further comprising an elbow assembly connected to the tube assembly and configured to connect to the plenum chamber at the connection port.

37. A patient interface comprising: a seal-forming structure comprising a sealing flange configured to seal against the patient's face and a hole configured to direct the therapy flow of gas to one or both of the patient's nares; a plenum chamber joined to the seal-forming structure and comprising a connection port configured to receive the therapy flow of gas from the vent system; a positioning and stabilising structure comprising a strap configured to hold the seal-forming structure in a therapeutically effective position on the patient; and the vent system of claim 21.

38. The patient interface of claim 37, further comprising: a tube assembly connected to the vent housing connector; and an elbow assembly connected to the tube assembly and configured to connect to the plenum chamber at the connection port.

39. An RPT system, comprising: an RPT device configured to generate the therapy flow of gas pressurized above ambient pressure; the patient interface of claim 37; and an air circuit configured to deliver the therapy flow of gas pressurized above ambient pressure from the RPT device to the

vent system.

40. The RPT system of claim 39, wherein the RPT system does not include a humidifier.
