



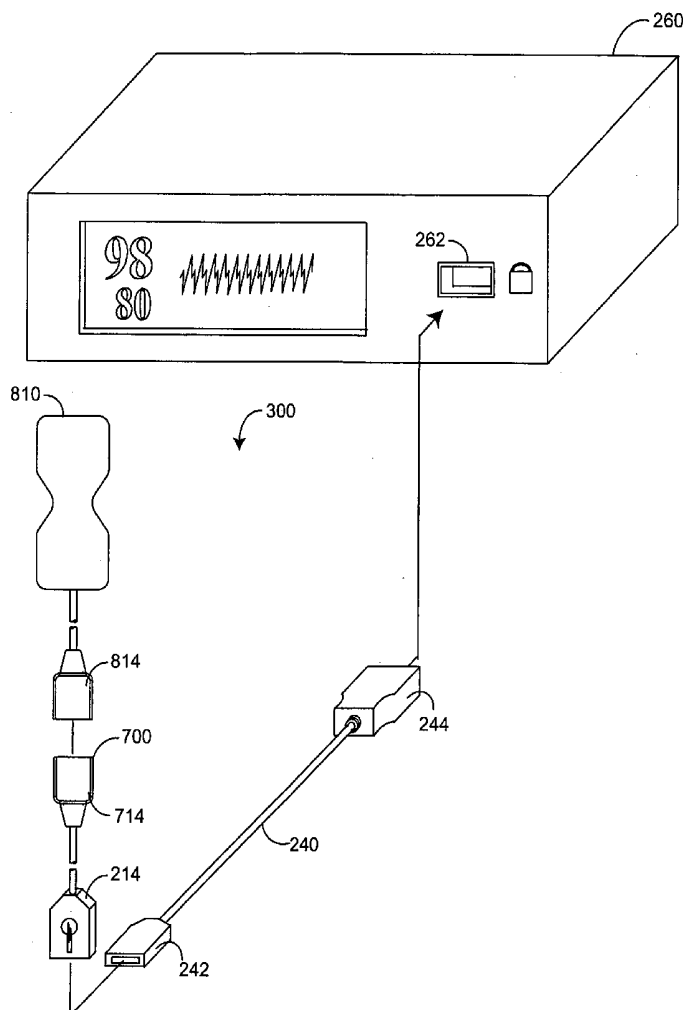
US 20050101848A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2005/0101848 A1**
Al-Ali et al. (43) **Pub. Date: May 12, 2005**(54) **PULSE OXIMETER ACCESS APPARATUS
AND METHOD****Publication Classification**(76) Inventors: **Ammar Al-Ali**, Tustin, CA (US);
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CA (US)(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **A61B 5/00**(52) **U.S. Cl.** **600/323**

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IRVINE, CA 92614 (US)(21) Appl. No.: **10/981,186**(22) Filed: **Nov. 4, 2004****Related U.S. Application Data**(60) Provisional application No. 60/517,954, filed on Nov.
5, 2003.(57) **ABSTRACT**

Access is provided to certain pulse oximetry systems utilizing a keyed sensor and a corresponding locked sensor port of a restricted access monitor. In such systems, the keyed sensor has a key comprising a memory element, and the monitor has a memory reader associated with the sensor port. The monitor is configured to function only when the key is in communications with the locked sensor port, and the memory reader is able to retrieve predetermined data from the memory element. The monitor is accessed by providing the key separate from the keyed sensor, integrating the key into an adapter cable, and connecting the adapter cable between the sensor port and an unkeyed sensor so that the monitor functions with the unkeyed sensor.



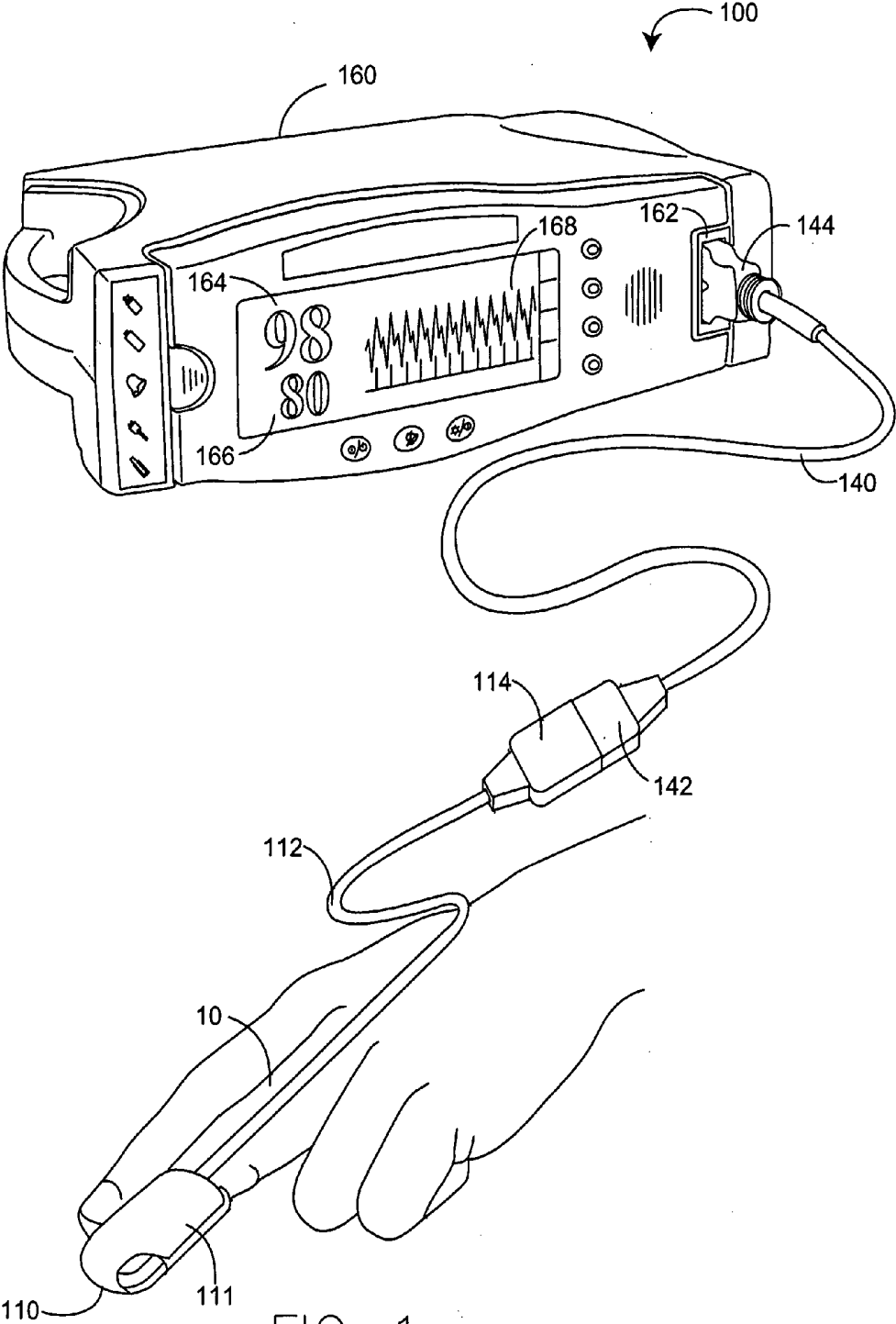


FIG. 1

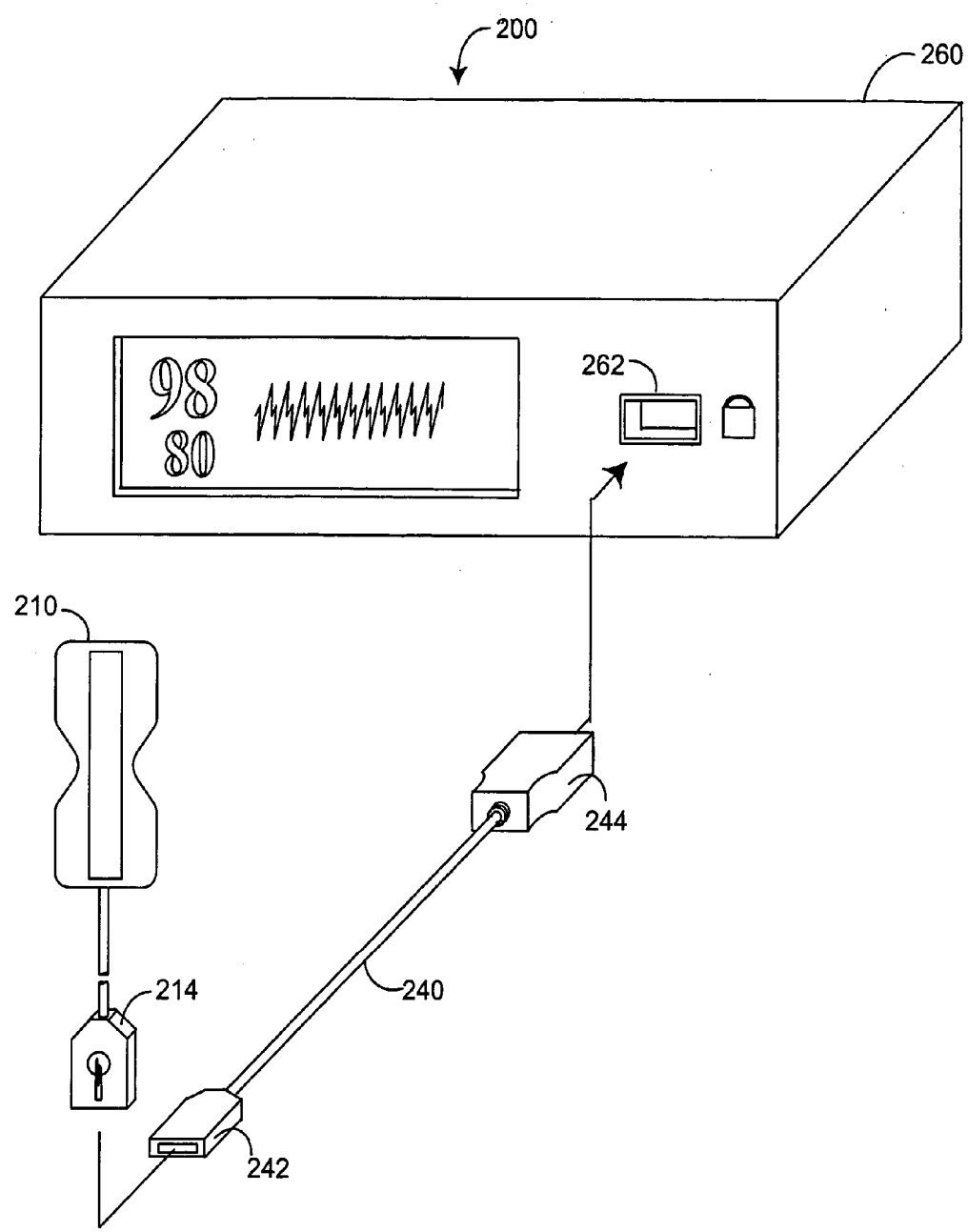
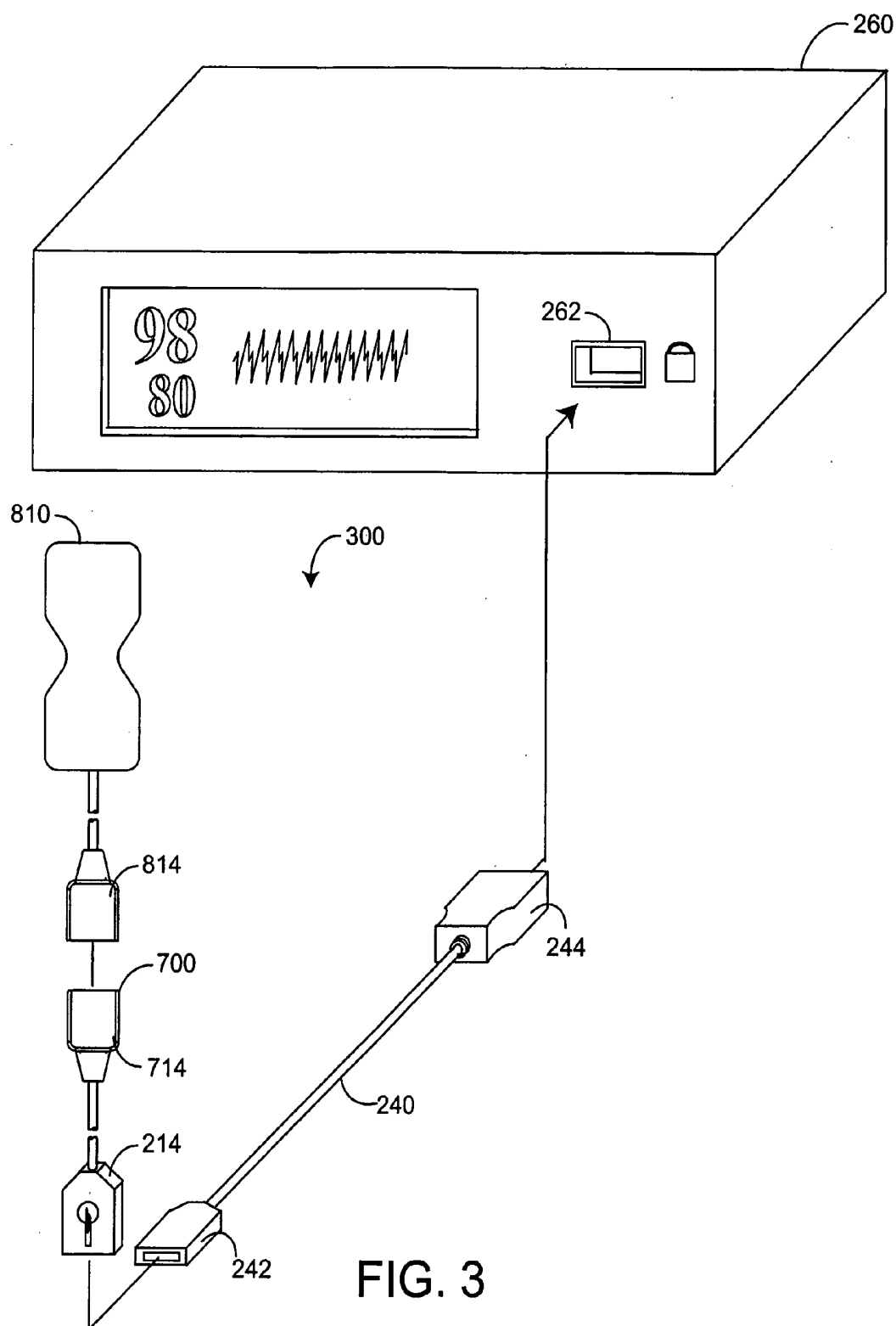


FIG. 2



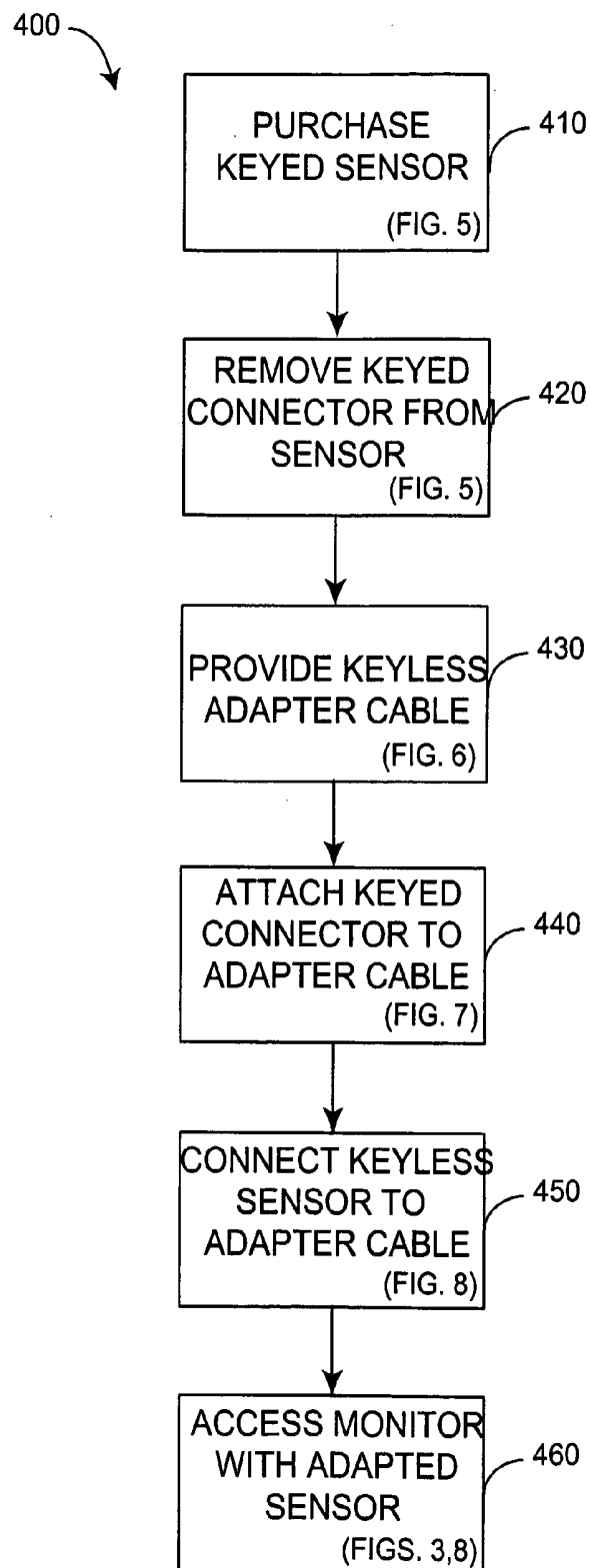


FIG. 4

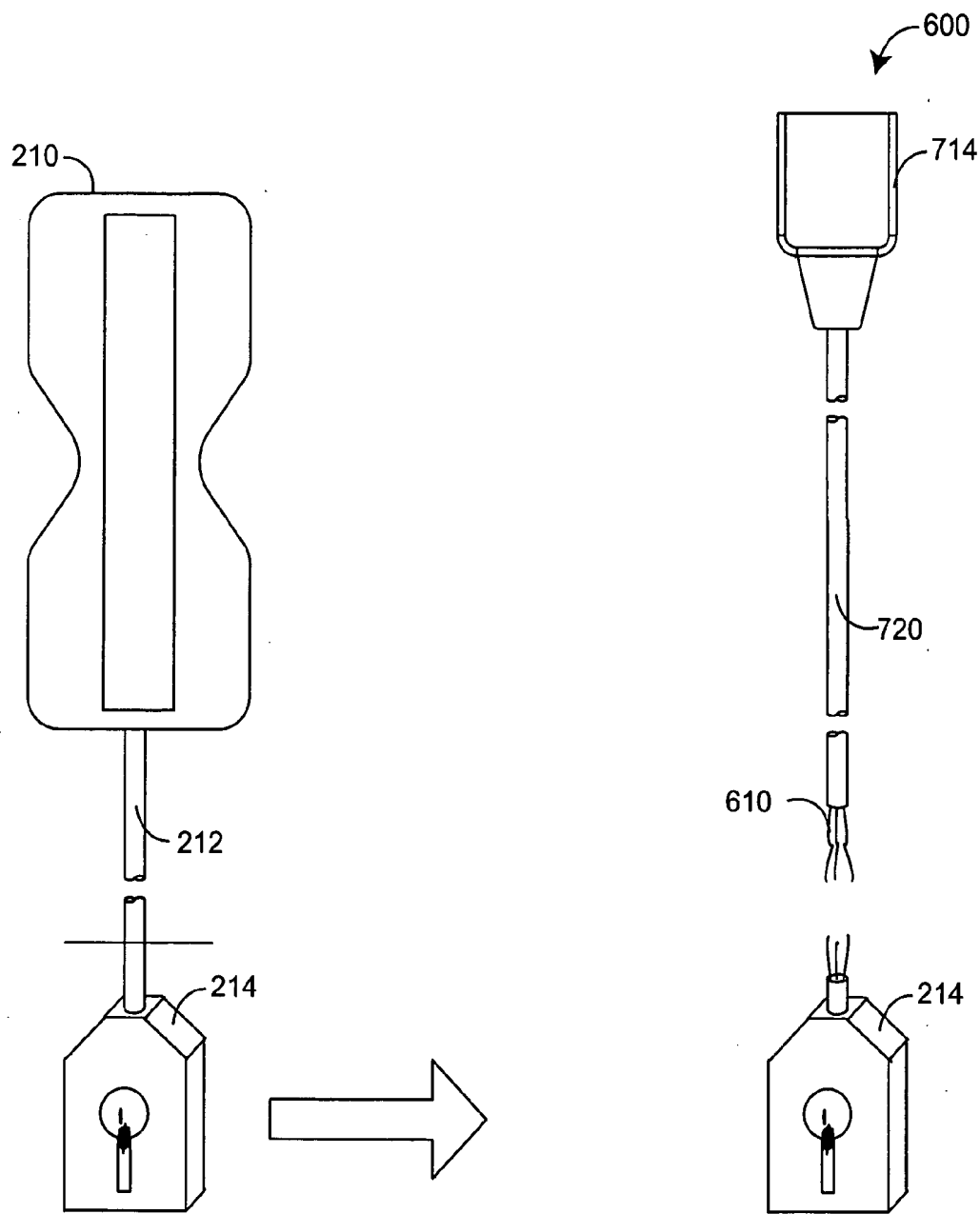


FIG. 5

FIG. 6

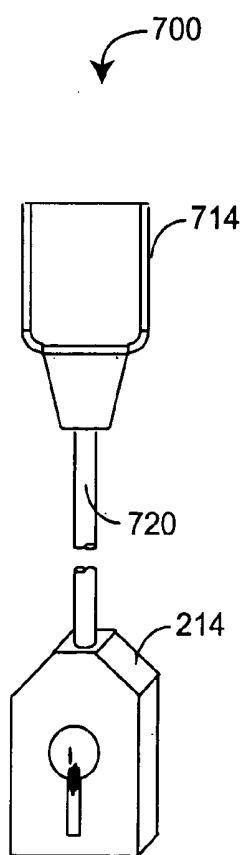


FIG. 7

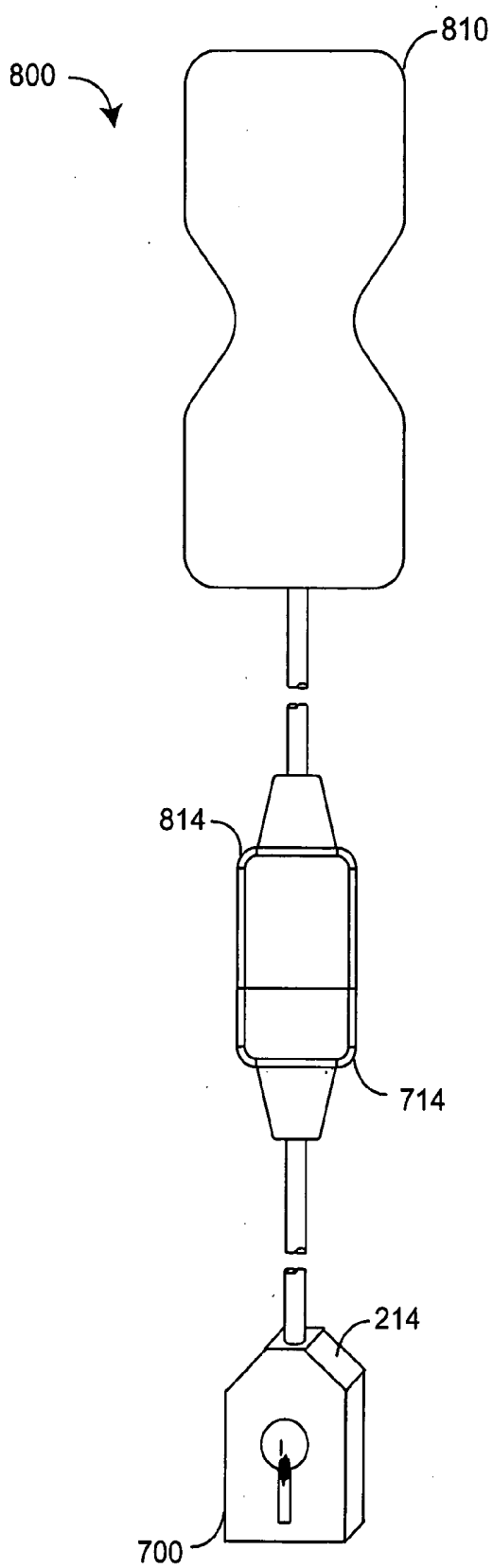


FIG. 8

PULSE OXIMETER ACCESS APPARATUS AND METHOD

REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] The present application claims priority benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/517,954, filed Nov. 5, 2003, entitled "PULSE OXIMETER ACCESS APPARATUS AND METHOD," which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Pulse oximeters have gained rapid acceptance in a wide variety of medical applications, including surgical wards, intensive care units, general wards and home care by providing early detection of decreases in the arterial oxygen supply, reducing the risk of accidental death and injury. FIG. 1 illustrates a pulse oximetry system 100 having a sensor 110 applied to a patient 10, a monitor 160, and a patient cable 140 connecting the sensor 110 and the monitor 160. The sensor 110 has a sensor body 111 that houses emitters and a detector and is attached to a patient at a selected fleshy medium site, such as a fingertip or ear lobe. The emitters are positioned to project light of at least two wavelengths through the blood vessels and capillaries of the fleshy medium. The detector is positioned so as to detect the emitted light after absorption by the fleshy medium, including hemoglobin and other constituents of pulsatile blood flowing within the fleshy medium, and generate at least first and second intensity signals in response. The sensor 110 has a patient cable connector 114 and may have an integrated sensor cable 112. The sensor 110 may be a disposable adhesive sensor for use on a single patient or a reusable clip-on sensor for use on multiple patients.

[0003] As shown in FIG. 1, the monitor 160, which may be a standalone device or may be incorporated as a module or built-in portion of a multiparameter patient monitoring system, computes at least one physiological parameter responsive to magnitudes of the intensity signals. A monitor 160 typically provides a numerical readout of the patient's oxygen saturation 164, a numerical readout of pulse rate 166, and a display the patient's plethysmograph 168, which provides a visual display of the patient's pulse contour and pulse rate. The monitor 160 has a sensor port 162 that transmits emitter drive signals to the sensor 110 and receives the detector intensity signals from the sensor 110. The patient cable 140 provides the electrical and mechanical connection and communications link between the sensor port 162 and the sensor 110. The patient cable 140 has a sensor connector 142 that connects to the patient cable connector 114 and a monitor connector 144 that connects to the sensor port 162.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] Pulse oximeters have gained rapid acceptance in a wide variety of medical applications, including surgical wards, intensive care units, general wards and home care by providing early detection of decreases in the arterial oxygen supply, reducing the risk of accidental death and injury. FIG. 1 illustrates a pulse oximetry system 100 having a sensor 110 applied to a patient 10, a monitor 160, and a patient cable 140 connecting the sensor 110 and the monitor 160. The sensor 110 has a sensor body 111 that houses emitters and a

detector and is attached to a patient at a selected fleshy medium site, such as a fingertip or ear lobe. The emitters are positioned to project light of at least two wavelengths through the blood vessels and capillaries of the fleshy medium. The detector is positioned so as to detect the emitted light after absorption by the fleshy medium, including hemoglobin and other constituents of pulsatile blood flowing within the fleshy medium, and generate at least first and second intensity signals in response. The sensor 110 has a patient cable connector 114 and may have an integrated sensor cable 112. The sensor 110 may be a disposable adhesive sensor for use on a single patient or a reusable clip-on sensor for use on multiple patients.

[0005] As shown in FIG. 1, the monitor 160, which may be a standalone device or may be incorporated as a module or built-in portion of a multiparameter patient monitoring system, computes at least one physiological parameter responsive to magnitudes of the intensity signals. A monitor 160 typically provides a numerical readout of the patient's oxygen saturation 164, a numerical readout of pulse rate 166, and a display the patient's plethysmograph 168, which provides a visual display of the patient's pulse contour and pulse rate. The monitor 160 has a sensor port 162 that transmits emitter drive signals to the sensor 110 and receives the detector intensity signals from the sensor 110. The patient cable 140 provides the electrical and mechanical connection and communications link between the sensor port 162 and the sensor 110. The patient cable 140 has a sensor connector 142 that connects to the patient cable connector 114 and a monitor connector 144 that connects to the sensor port 162.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] FIG. 2 illustrates a restricted access pulse oximetry system 200 having a keyed sensor 210 and a restricted access monitor 260. The keyed sensor 210 and restricted access monitor 260 are designed so that the monitor 260 will only function with a specific sensor or family of sensors from a specific manufacturer or licensed vendors. Upon power up, the sensor port 262 is locked. That is, the monitor 260 will not function until it reads the correct information from the sensor port 262. In particular, a patient cable connector 214 has a memory device. The memory device and the data stored in the memory device act as a key. The sensor port 262 and a memory reader in the monitor associated with the sensor port 262 act as a lock. When the keyed patient cable connector 214 is in communications with the locked sensor port 262 via a patient cable 240, the memory reader can access the data stored in the memory device. If the stored data matches predetermined access data, the monitor unlocks the sensor port 262, i.e. properly functions with a sensor attached to the sensor port 262. A memory device commonly used for storing manufacturer and product information is the DS2502 from Dallas Semiconductor, which has a 1 kbit memory that is accessed through a single pin that provides data input, data output and power. Once the sensor port 262 is unlocked, the sensor 210, patient cable 240, sensor port 262 and monitor 260 function as described with respect to FIG. 1, above.

[0007] One aspect of a pulse oximeter access method is used in conjunction with a pulse oximetry system comprising a keyed sensor and a corresponding locked sensor port of a restricted access monitor. The keyed sensor has a key

comprising a memory element. The monitor has a memory reader associated with the sensor port. The monitor is configured to function only when the key is in communications with the locked sensor port and the memory reader is able to retrieve predetermined data from the memory element. The access method comprises the steps of providing the key separate from the keyed sensor, integrating the key into an adapter cable, and connecting the adapter cable between the sensor port and an unkeyed sensor so that the monitor functions with the unkeyed sensor.

[0008] Another aspect of a pulse oximeter access apparatus comprises a sensor having emitters adapted to transmit light of at least first and second wavelengths into a fleshy medium and a light sensitive detector adapted to generate at least first and second intensity signals by detecting the light after absorption by constituents of pulsatile blood flowing within the fleshy medium. A monitor is configured to non-invasively measure one or more physiological parameters responsive to magnitudes of the intensity signals. A key contains access information. A sensor port is configured to communicate emitter drive signals from the monitor to the sensor, intensity signals from the sensor to the monitor, and the access information from the key to the monitor. A lock associated with the sensor port is adapted to read the access information from the key and to enable the monitor to provide measurements of the physiological parameters in response to the access information. An adapter cable containing the key is configured to provide a communications link between the sensor and the sensor port.

[0009] A further aspect of a pulse oximeter access apparatus comprises a sensor means for providing a physiological signal to a monitor and a key means for providing access to a locked sensor port portion of the monitor. An adapter cable means containing the key means provides communications between the sensor and the sensor port.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a prior art pulse oximetry system;

[0011] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a prior art pulse oximetry system having a restricted access monitor with a locked sensor port;

[0012] FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a pulse oximeter access apparatus;

[0013] FIG. 4 is a flow diagram of a pulse oximeter access method;

[0014] FIGS. 5-6 are perspective views of a keyed sensor and a keyless adapter cable, respectively, illustrating lock removal and reattachment; and

[0015] FIGS. 7-8 are perspective views of a keyed adapter cable and an attached keyless sensor, respectively.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0016] FIG. 3 illustrates a pulse oximeter access apparatus 300 having a keyless sensor 810, a keyed adapter cable 700 and a patient cable 240 that advantageously interconnect so as to allow the keyless sensor 810 to function with a restricted access monitor 260 having a locked sensor port 262. The keyed adapter cable 700 has a keyed connector 214

at one end, which mates with a sensor connector 242 of a patient cable 240, and a sensor connector 714 at the opposite end, which mates with a patient cable connector 814 of the keyless sensor 810. The monitor connector 244 mates with the sensor port 262, providing communications between the keyless sensor 810 and the sensor port 262 and between a memory element in the keyed connector 214 and a memory reader within the monitor 260. The sensor connector 714 of the keyed adapter cable 700 can be any of a number of connectors that mate with any of a number of patient cable connectors 814. Further, a family of keyed adapter cables 700 can be configured, each with a different sensor connector 714 compatible with a different keyless sensor 810 or family of keyless sensors 810.

[0017] FIG. 4 illustrates a pulse oximeter access method 400 for creating and utilizing a keyed adapter cable 700 (FIGS. 3, 7). In an initial step, a sensor port key is provided by purchasing 410 a keyed sensor configured for a particular restricted access monitor 260 (FIG. 2) and removing 420 the associated keyed connector 214 (FIG. 2), as described in further detail with respect to FIG. 5, below. Further steps include providing 430 a keyless adapter cable 600 (FIG. 6), and attaching 440 the keyed connector 214 (FIG. 2) to one end to make the keyed adapter cable 700 (FIG. 7), as described in further detail with respect to FIGS. 6-7, below. Additional steps include connecting 450 a keyless sensor 810 (FIG. 8) to the keyed adapter cable, and accessing 460 the restricted access monitor with the resulting adapted sensor 800 (FIG. 8), as described in further detail with respect to FIG. 3, above, and FIG. 8, below.

[0018] FIGS. 5-6 illustrate obtaining a sensor key from a keyed sensor 210 (FIG. 5) and using the key in the construction of a keyed adapter cable 700 (FIG. 7). As shown in FIG. 5, the keyed connector 214 is removed from a keyed sensor 210, such as by cutting the sensor cable 212 so as to leave sufficient wire for reattachment. As shown in FIG. 6, a keyless adapter cable 600 is provided having a cable 720 with a sensor connector 714 attached to a first end and with unconnected wires 610 at a second end. The removed keyed connector 214 is spliced or otherwise attached to the second end by any of various well-known methods, such as soldering or crimping followed by heat-shrink insulation to name a few techniques.

[0019] Construction of a keyed adapter cable 700 (FIG. 7) is described above with respect to removal and reattachment of a keyed connector 214. In an alternative embodiment, the key or memory element itself is removed from the keyed connector 214 of a keyed sensor 210 (FIG. 5) and embedded into or otherwise integrated into or incorporated with either one or both connectors of an otherwise keyless adapter cable 600 to construct the keyed adapter cable 700 (FIG. 7). In yet another embodiment, an equivalent memory element is purchased, developed or otherwise obtained and programmed with access data compatible with the memory element of the keyed sensor 210 (FIG. 5) and embedded into or otherwise integrated into or incorporated with either one or both connectors of an otherwise keyless adapter cable 600 to construct the keyed adapter cable 700 (FIG. 7).

[0020] FIG. 7 illustrates a keyed adapter cable 700 having a sensor connector 714, a keyed connector 214 and a cable 720 interconnecting the sensor connector 714 and keyed connector 214. The sensor connector 714 is configured to

connect to a sensor patient cable connector **814** (**FIG. 8**), and the keyed connector **214** is configured to connect to a patient cable sensor connector **242** (**FIG. 3**). The keyed connector **214** has a memory element that is readable by a restricted access monitor **260** (**FIG. 3**) so as to unlock a locked sensor port **262** (**FIG. 3**), as described above.

[0021] **FIG. 8** illustrates an adapted sensor **800** having a keyed adapter cable **700** attached to a keyless sensor **810**. The sensor connector **714** of the keyed adapter cable **700** is mated to the patient cable connector **814** of the keyless sensor **810**. The resulting adapted sensor **800** is configured to function with a restricted access monitor **260** (**FIG. 3**) in an equivalent manner as a keyed sensor **210** (**FIG. 2**). In particular, the keyed connector **214** mates with a patient cable **240** (**FIG. 3**), which mates with a locked sensor port **262** (**FIG. 3**) of a restricted access monitor **260** (**FIG. 3**) so that monitor **260** (**FIG. 3**) functions with the keyless sensor **810**, as described above with respect to **FIG. 3**.

[0022] A keyed adapter cable is described above with respect to an adapter between a keyless sensor **810** and a patient cable **240** (**FIG. 3**). Such an embodiment is particularly advantageous for utilization of a keyed connector **214** removed from a keyed sensor **210** (**FIG. 5**). In an alternative embodiment, the patient cable **240** (**FIG. 3**) itself is utilized as a keyed adapter cable between a keyless sensor **810** and a locked sensor port **262** (**FIG. 3**). In particular, a memory element containing access data is removed from a keyed sensor **210** (**FIG. 5**) or a memory element is purchased, developed or otherwise obtained and programmed with compatible access data. The memory element is embedded into or otherwise integrated into or incorporated with either one or both connectors of an otherwise keyless patient cable **240** (**FIG. 3**) to construct a keyed adapter cable.

[0023] A pulse oximeter access apparatus and method has been disclosed in detail in connection with various embodiments. These embodiments are disclosed by way of examples only and are not to limit the scope of the claims that follow. One of ordinary skill in art will appreciate many variations and modifications.

What is claimed is:

1. In a pulse oximetry system comprising a keyed sensor and a corresponding locked sensor port of a restricted access monitor, said keyed sensor having a key comprising a memory element, said monitor having a memory reader associated with said sensor port, said monitor configured to function only when said key is in communications with said locked sensor port and said memory reader is able to retrieve predetermined data from said memory element, an access method comprising the steps of:

providing said key separate from said keyed sensor;

integrating said key into an adapter cable; and

connecting said adapter cable between said sensor port and a unkeyed sensor so that said monitor functions with said unkeyed sensor.

2. The access method according to claim 1 wherein said providing step comprises the substeps of:

purchasing said keyed sensor; and

removing said key from said keyed sensor.

3. The access method according to claim 2 wherein said removing step comprises the substep of detaching a patient cable connector containing said key from said keyed sensor.

4. The access method according to claim 2 wherein said providing step comprises the substep of removing said key from a patient cable connector portion of said keyed sensor.

5. The access method according to claim 1 wherein said providing step comprises the substeps of:

providing said memory element;

programming said memory element with said predetermined data; and

incorporating said memory element into a connector.

6. The access method according to claim 1 wherein said integrating step comprises the substeps of:

providing a keyless adapter cable having a first end, an opposite second end, and a first connector attached to said first end; and

attaching a second connector having said key to said second end.

7. The access method according to claim 6 wherein:

said adapter cable is a sensor adapter;

said first connector is a sensor connector adapted to mate with a patient cable connector of said generic sensor; and

said second connector is a patient cable connector adapted to mate with a sensor connector of a patient cable.

8. The access method according to claim 6 wherein:

said adapter cable is a patient cable; and

said second connector is one of a monitor connector adapted to mate with said sensor port and a sensor connector adapter to mate with a patient cable connector of said unkeyed sensor.

9. The access method according to claim 1 wherein said connecting step comprises the substeps of:

mating a patient cable to said sensor port;

connecting said adapter cable between said patient cable and said unkeyed sensor.

10. The access method according to claim 1 wherein said connecting step comprises the substeps of:

mating said adapter cable to said sensor port;

connecting said unkeyed sensor to said adapter cable.

11. A pulse oximeter access apparatus comprising:

a sensor having emitters adapted to transmit light of at least first and second wavelengths into a fleshy medium and a light sensitive detector adapted to generate at least first and second intensity signals by detecting the light after absorption by constituents of pulsatile blood flowing within the fleshy medium;

a monitor configured to non-invasively measure at least one physiological parameter responsive to magnitudes of said intensity signals;

a key containing access information;

a sensor port configured to communicate emitter drive signals from said monitor to said sensor, said intensity

signals from said sensor to said monitor, and access information from said key to said monitor;

a lock associated with said sensor port adapted to read said access information from said key and to enable said monitor to provide measurements of said at least one physiological parameter in response to said access information; and

an adapter cable configured to provide a communications link between said sensor and said sensor port, said adapter cable containing said key.

12. The pulse oximeter access apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said key comprises a memory element removed from a second sensor, said memory element programmed with said access information.

13. The pulse oximeter access apparatus according to claim 12 wherein said memory element is incorporated into a patient cable connector detached from said second sensor, said patient cable connector being reattached to said adapter cable.

14. The pulse oximeter access apparatus according to claim 12 wherein said memory element is incorporated into a connector portion of said adapter cable.

15. The pulse oximeter access apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said adapter cable is configured to connect between said sensor and a patient cable.

16. The pulse oximeter access apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said adapter cable is a patient cable configured to connect to said sensor at one end and said sensor port at another end.

17. A pulse oximeter access apparatus comprising:

a sensor means for providing a physiological signal to a monitor;

a key means for providing access to a locked sensor port portion of said monitor; and

an adapter cable means for providing communications between said sensor and said sensor port, said adapter cable means containing said key means.

18. The pulse oximeter access apparatus according to claim 17 further comprising:

a patient cable means for providing communications between said sensor and said sensor port; and

a connector means for mating with said patient cable means,

said key means integrated into said connector means,

said connector means attached to said adapter cable means.

19. The pulse oximeter access apparatus according to claim 18 further comprising:

a second sensor means for providing a physiological signal to a monitor,

said second sensor means providing said connector means.

20. The pulse oximeter access apparatus according to claim 18 further comprising:

a second sensor means for providing a physiological signal to a monitor,

said second sensor means providing said key means.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	脉搏血氧计接入设备和方法		
公开(公告)号	US20050101848A1	公开(公告)日	2005-05-12
申请号	US10/981186	申请日	2004-11-04
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优先权	60/517954 2003-11-05 US		
其他公开文献	US7483729		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

利用键控传感器和受限访问监视器的相应锁定传感器端口，为某些脉搏血氧测量系统提供访问。在这样的系统中，键控传感器具有包括存储元件的键，并且监视器具有与传感器端口相关联的存储器读取器。监视器被配置为仅在键与锁定的传感器端口通信时起作用，并且存储器读取器能够从存储器元件检索预定数据。通过提供与键控传感器分开的钥匙，将钥匙集成到适配器电缆中，并在传感器端口和未键控传感器之间连接适配器电缆，使监视器与无键传感器一起工作，即可访问监视器。

