US 20060122869A9

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**

Rosenfeld et al.

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2006/0122869 A9**

(48) **Pub. Date: Jun. 8, 2006**

CORRECTED PUBLICATION

(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR STANDARDIZING CARE IN A HOSPITAL ENVIRONMENT**

(75) Inventors: **Brian A. Rosenfeld**, Baltimore, MD (US); **Michael Breslow**, Lutherville, MD (US)

Correspondence Address:
ROBERTS ABOKHAIR & MARDULA
SUITE 1000
11800 SUNRISE VALLEY DRIVE
RESTON, VA 20191 (US)

(73) Assignee: **VISICU, Inc.**

(21) Appl. No.: **11/061,715**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 18, 2005**

Prior Publication Data

(15) Correction of US 2005/0159987 A1 Jul. 21, 2005
See Related U.S. Application Data.

(65) US 2005/0159987 A1 Jul. 21, 2005

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 10/946,548, filed on Sep. 21, 2004, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/443,072, filed on Nov. 18, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,804,656.

Continuation-in-part of application No. 10/654,668, filed on Sep. 4, 2003, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/443,072, filed on Nov. 18, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,804,656.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/141,520, filed on Jun. 23, 1999.

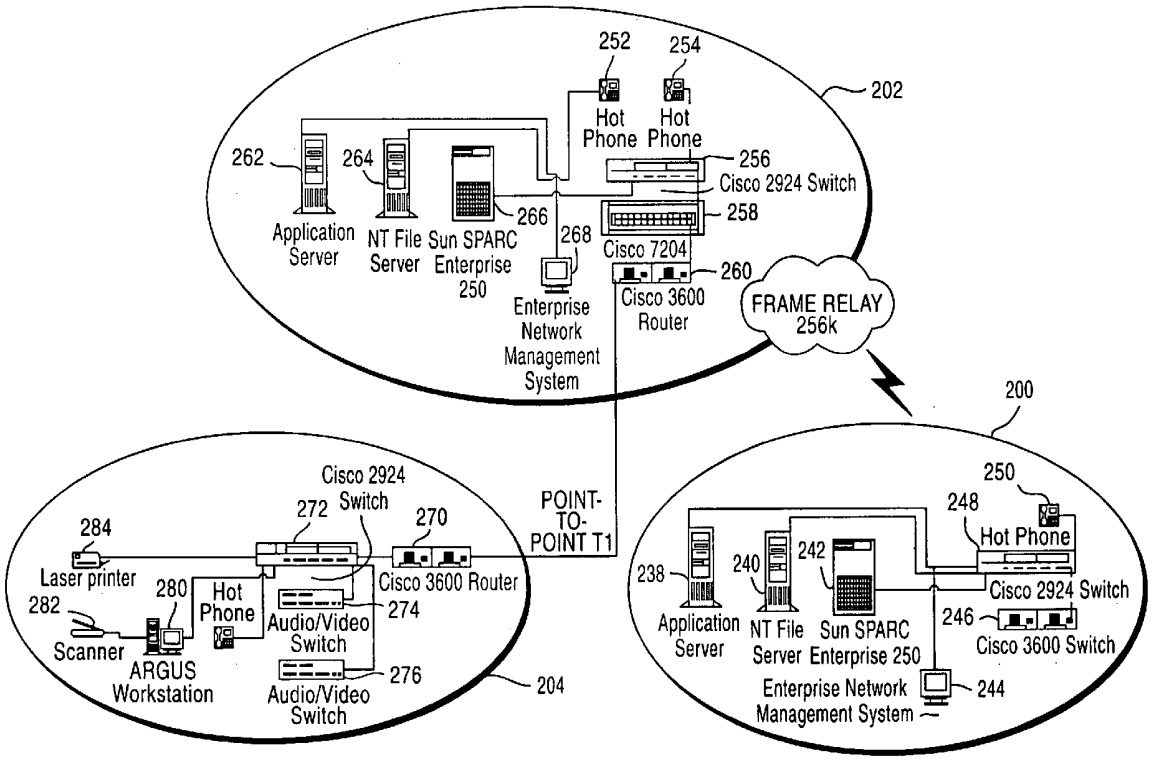
Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06F 17/60 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **705/3**; 705/2; 600/300

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and method for standardizing care in a hospital environment. Information concerning the latest care and practice standards for a given condition is provided to a decision support module. The decision support module comprises decision support algorithms that reflect a standardize guideline of practice for a particular medical condition. The general categories of cardiovascular, endocrinology, general, gastrointestinal, hematology, infectious diseases, neurology, pharmacology, pulmonary, renal, surgery, toxicology, trauma all have guidelines and practice standards associated with them. Patient data and user input are inputted to the decision support algorithm. The user may be prompted for user input, and an assessment is made of the patient so as provide patient care advice for the patient. Examples of patient care advice are a diagnosis, a method of treatment, and a laboratory protocol.



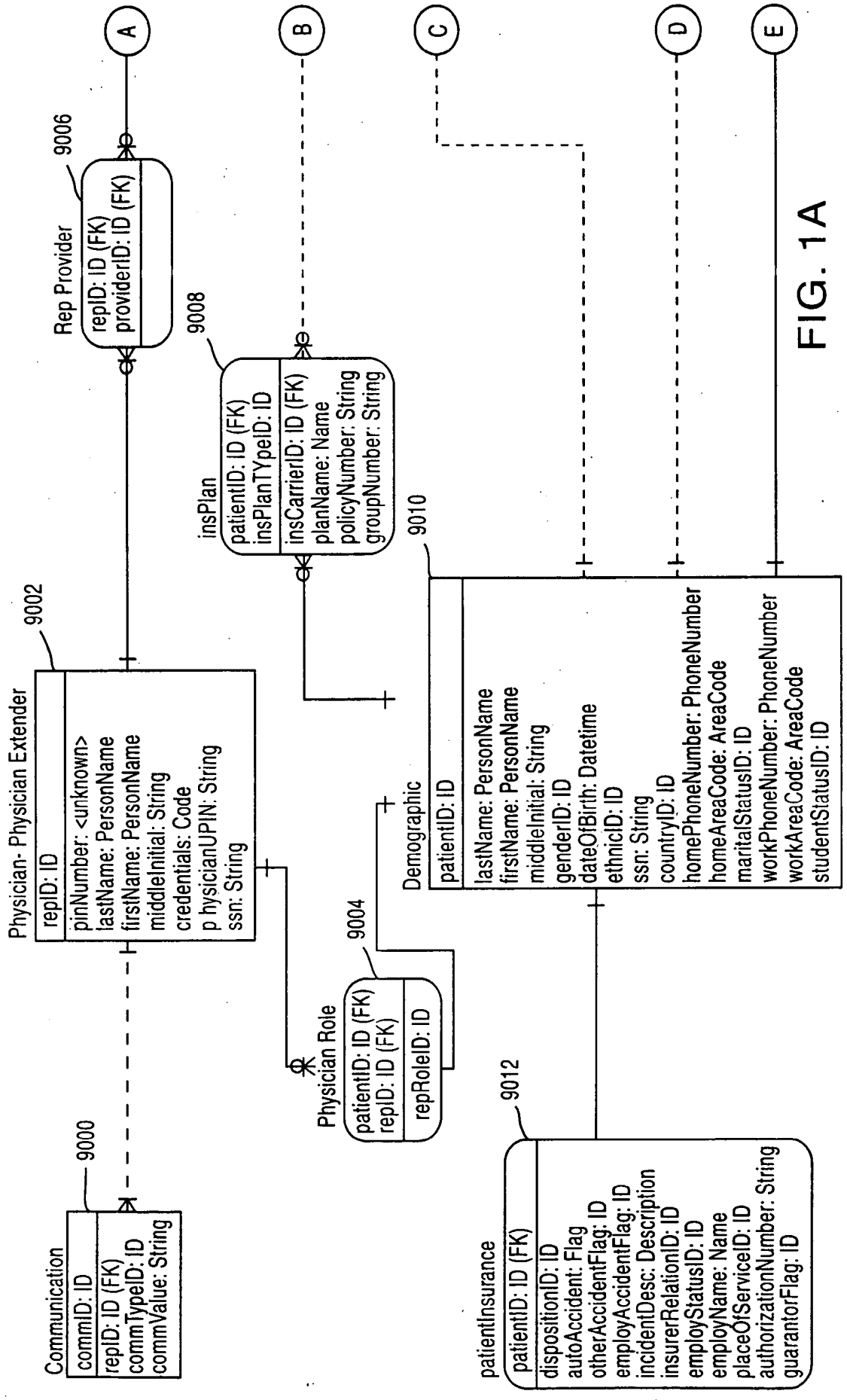

A
B
C
D
E
9006
Rep Provider
repID: ID (FK)
providerID: ID (FK)
9008
insPlan
patientID: ID (FK)
insPlanTYpeID: ID
insCarrierID: ID (FK)
planName: Name
policyNumber: String
groupNumber: String
9002
Physician- Physician Extender
repID: ID
pinNumber: <unknown>
lastName: PersonName
firstName: PersonName
middleInitial: String
credentials: Code
p hysicianUPIN: String
ssn: String
9010
Demographic
patientID: ID
lastName: PersonName
firstName: PersonName
middleInitial: String
genderID: ID
dateOfBirth: Datetime
ethnicID: ID
ssn: String
countryID: ID
homePhoneNumber: PhoneNumber
homeAreaCode: AreaCode
maritalStatusID: ID
workPhoneNumber: PhoneNumber
workAreaCode: AreaCode
studentStatusID: ID
9004
Physician Role
patientID: ID (FK)
repID: ID (FK)
repRoleID: ID
9000
Communication
commID: ID
repID: ID (FK)
commTypeID: ID
commValue: String
9012
patientInsurance
patientID: ID (FK)
dispositionID: ID
autoAccident: Flag
otherAccidentFlag: ID
employAccidentFlag: ID
incidentDesc: Description
insurerRelationID: ID
employStatusID: ID
employName: Name
placeOfServiceID: ID
authorizationNumber: String
guarantorFlag: ID

FIG. 1A

FIG. 1B

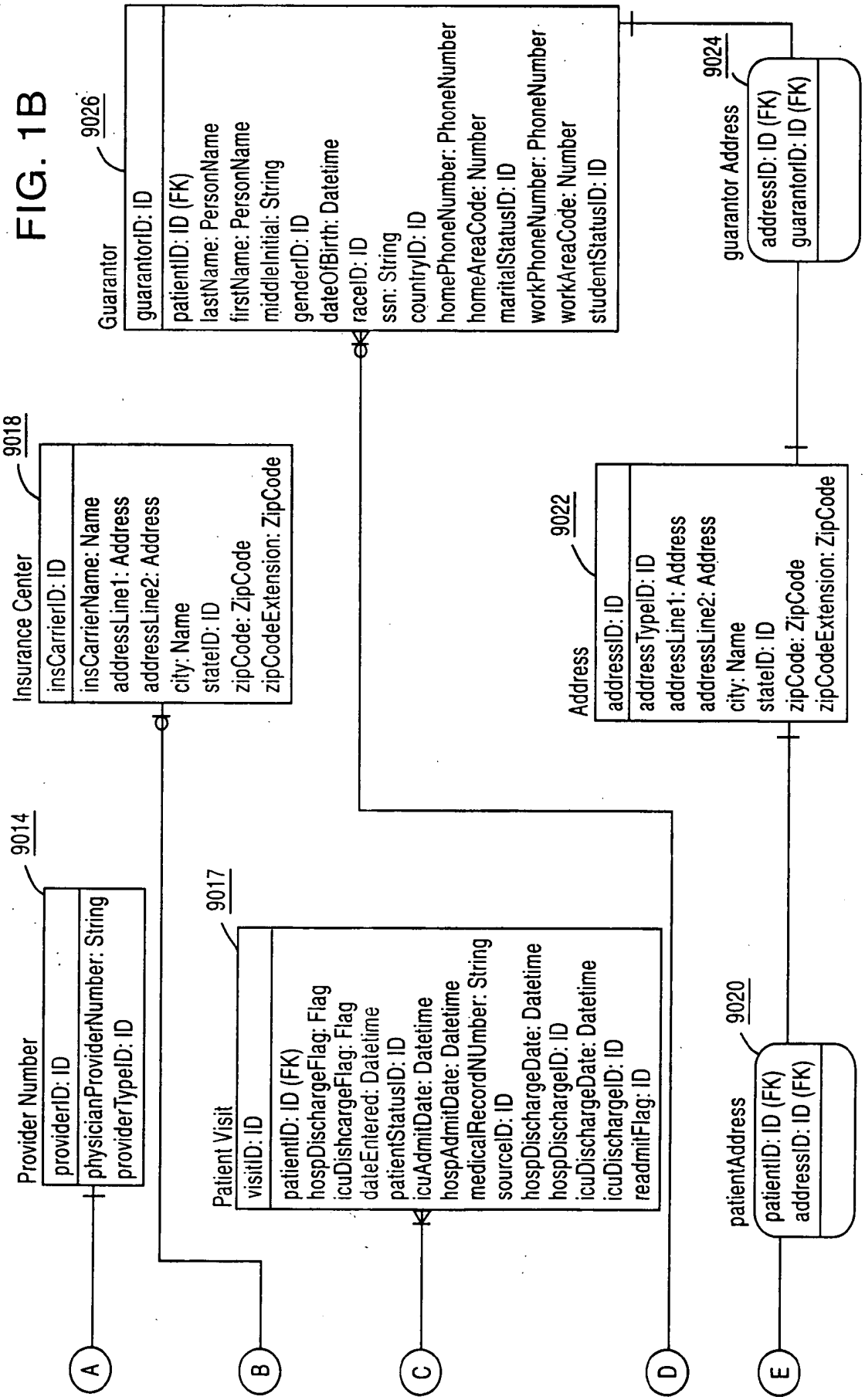

Guarantor
9026
guarantorID: ID
patientID: ID (FK)
lastName: PersonName
firstName: PersonName
middleInitial: String
genderID: ID
dateOfBirth: Datetime
raceID: ID
ssn: String
countryID: ID
homePhoneNumber: PhoneNumber
homeAreaCode: Number
maritalStatusID: ID
workPhoneNumber: PhoneNumber
workAreaCode: Number
studentStatusID: ID
guarantor Address
9024
addressID: ID (FK)
guarantorID: ID (FK)
Insurance Center
9018
insCarrierID: ID
insCarrierName: Name
addressLine1: Address
addressLine2: Address
city: Name
stateID: ID
zipCode: ZipCode
zipCodeExtension: ZipCode
Address
9022
addressID: ID
addressTypeID: ID
addressLine1: Address
addressLine2: Address
city: Name
stateID: ID
zipCode: ZipCode
zipCodeExtension: ZipCode
Provider Number
9014
providerID: ID
physicianProviderNumber: String
providerTypeID: ID
Patient Visit
9017
visitID: ID
patientID: ID (FK)
hospDischargeFlag: Flag
icuDishcargeFlag: Flag
dateEntered: Datetime
patientStatusID: ID
icuAdmitDate: Datetime
hospAdmitDate: Datetime
medicalRecordNUmber: String
sourceID: ID
hospDischargeDate: Datetime
hospDischargeID: ID
icuDischargeDate: Datetime
icuDischargeID: ID
readmitFlag: ID
patientAddress
9020
patientID: ID (FK)
addressID: ID (FK)
A
B
C
D
E

FIG. 2A

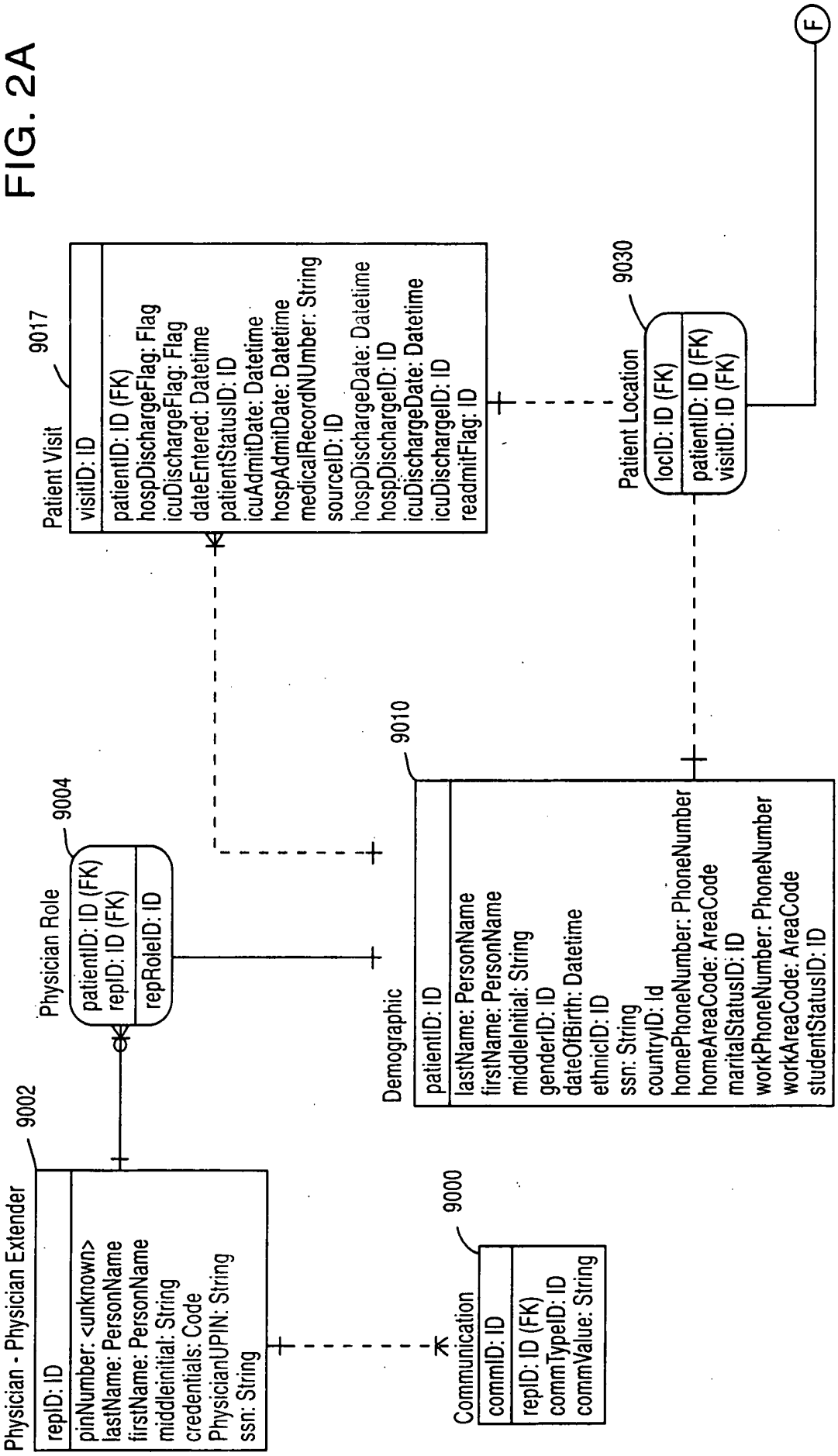

Physician - Physician Extender
9002
repID: ID
pinNumber: <unknown>
lastName: PersonName
firstName: PersonName
middleInitial: String
credentials: Code
PhysicianUPIN: String
ssn: String
Physician Role
9004
patientID: ID (FK)
repID: ID (FK)
repRoleID: ID
Patient Visit
9017
visitID: ID
patientID: ID (FK)
hospDischargeFlag: Flag
icuDischargeFlag: Flag
dateEntered: Datetime
patientStatusID: ID
icuAdmitDate: Datetime
hospAdmitDate: Datetime
medicalRecordNUmber: String
sourceID: ID
hospDischargeDate: Datetime
hospDischargeID: ID
icuDischargeDate: Datetime
icuDischargeID: ID
readmitFlag: ID
Patient Location
9030
locID: ID (FK)
patientID: ID (FK)
visitID: ID (FK)
F
Demographic
9010
patientID: ID
lastName: PersonName
firstName: PersonName
middleInitial: String
genderID: ID
dateOfBirth: Datetime
ethnicID: ID
ssn: String
countryID: Id
homePhoneNumber: PhoneNumber
homeAreaCode: AreaCode
maritalStatusID: ID
workPhoneNumber: PhoneNumber
workAreaCode: AreaCode
studentStatusID: ID
Communication
9000
commID: ID
repID: ID (FK)
commTypeID: ID
commValue: String

FIG. 2B

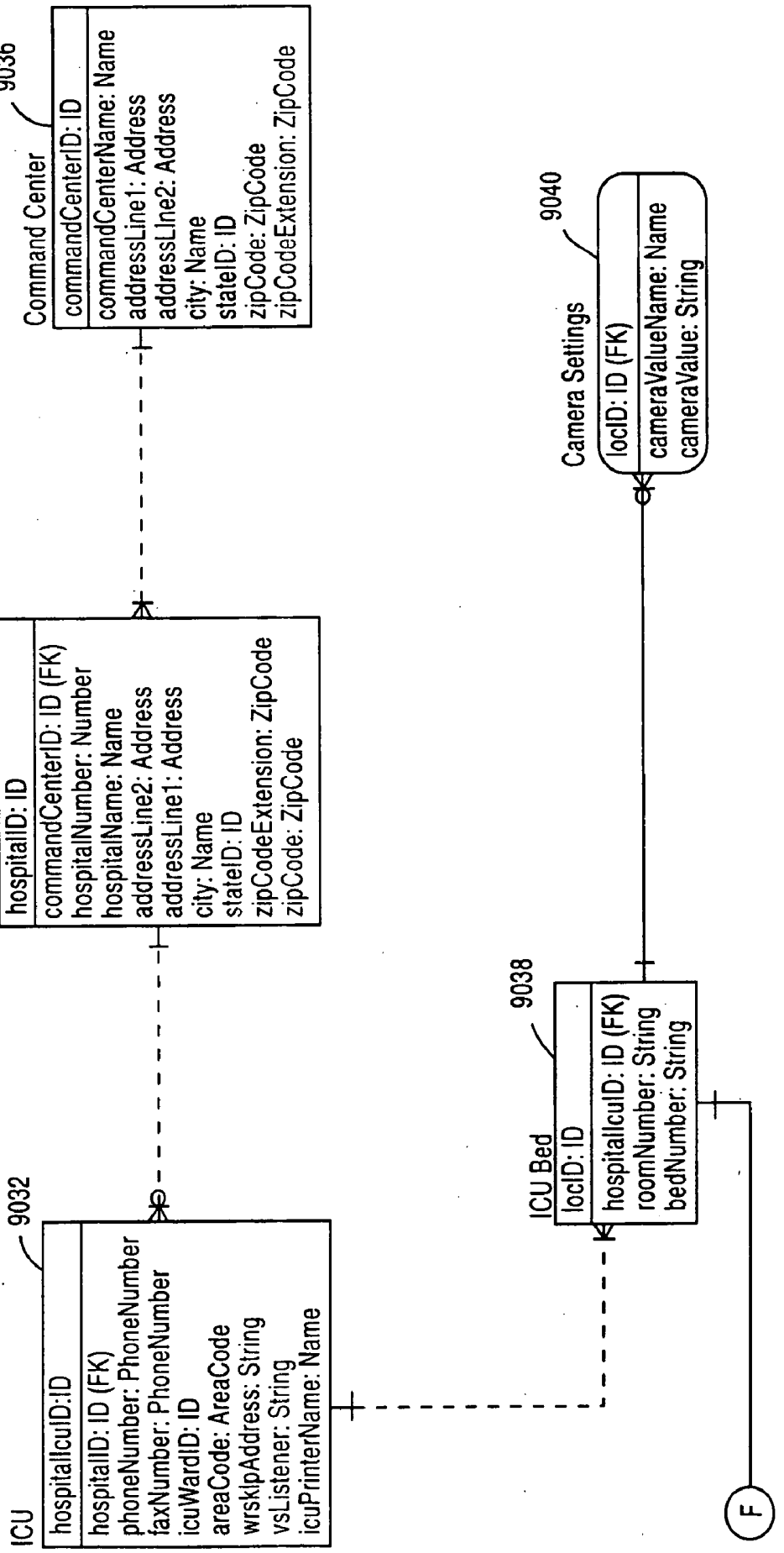

Command Center
9036
commandCenterID: ID
commandCenterName: Name
addressLine1: Address
addressLine2: Address
city: Name
stateID: ID
zipCode: ZipCode
zipCodeExtension: ZipCode
Hospital
9034
hospitalID: ID
commandCenterID: ID (FK)
hospitalNumber: Number
hospitalName: Name
addressLine2: Address
addressLine1: Address
city: Name
stateID: ID
zipCodeExtension: ZipCode
zipCode: ZipCode
ICU
9032
hospitalIcuID:ID
hospitalID: ID (FK)
phoneNumber: PhoneNumber
faxNumber: PhoneNumber
icuWardID: ID
areaCode: AreaCode
wrsIpAddress: String
vsListener: String
icuPrinterName: Name
ICU Bed
9038
locID: ID
hospitalIcuID: ID (FK)
roomNumber: String
bedNumber: String
Camera Settings
9040
locID: ID (FK)
cameraValueName: Name
cameraValue: String
F

FIG. 3

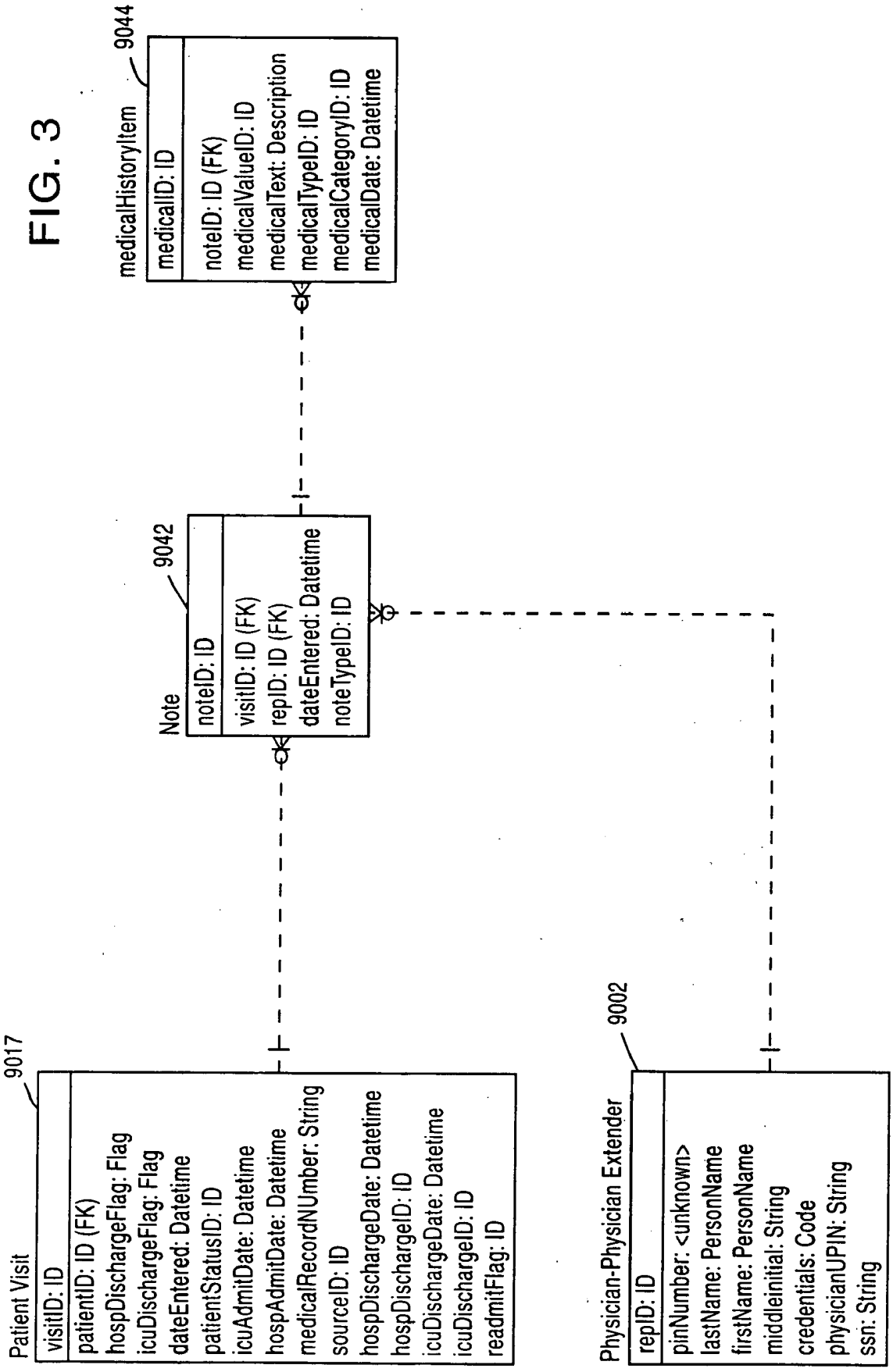

medicalHistoryItem
9044
medicalID: ID
noteID: ID (FK)
medicalValueID: ID
medicalText: Description
medicalTypeID: ID
medicalCategoryID: ID
medicalDate: Datetime
Note
9042
noteID: ID
visitID: ID (FK)
repID: ID (FK)
dateEntered: Datetime
noteTypeID: ID
Patient Visit
9017
visitID: ID
patientID: ID (FK)
hospDischargeFlag: Flag
icuDischargeFlag: Flag
dateEntered: Datetime
patientStatusID: ID
icuAdmitDate: Datetime
hospAdmitDate: Datetime
medicalRecordNUmber: String
sourceID: ID
hospDischargeDate: Datetime
hospDischargeID: ID
icuDischargeDate: Datetime
icuDischargeID: ID
readmitFlag: ID
Physician-Physician Extender
9002
repID: ID
pinNumber: <unknown>
lastName: PersonName
firstName: PersonName
middleinitial: String
credentials: Code
physicianUPIN: String
ssn: String

FIG. 4A

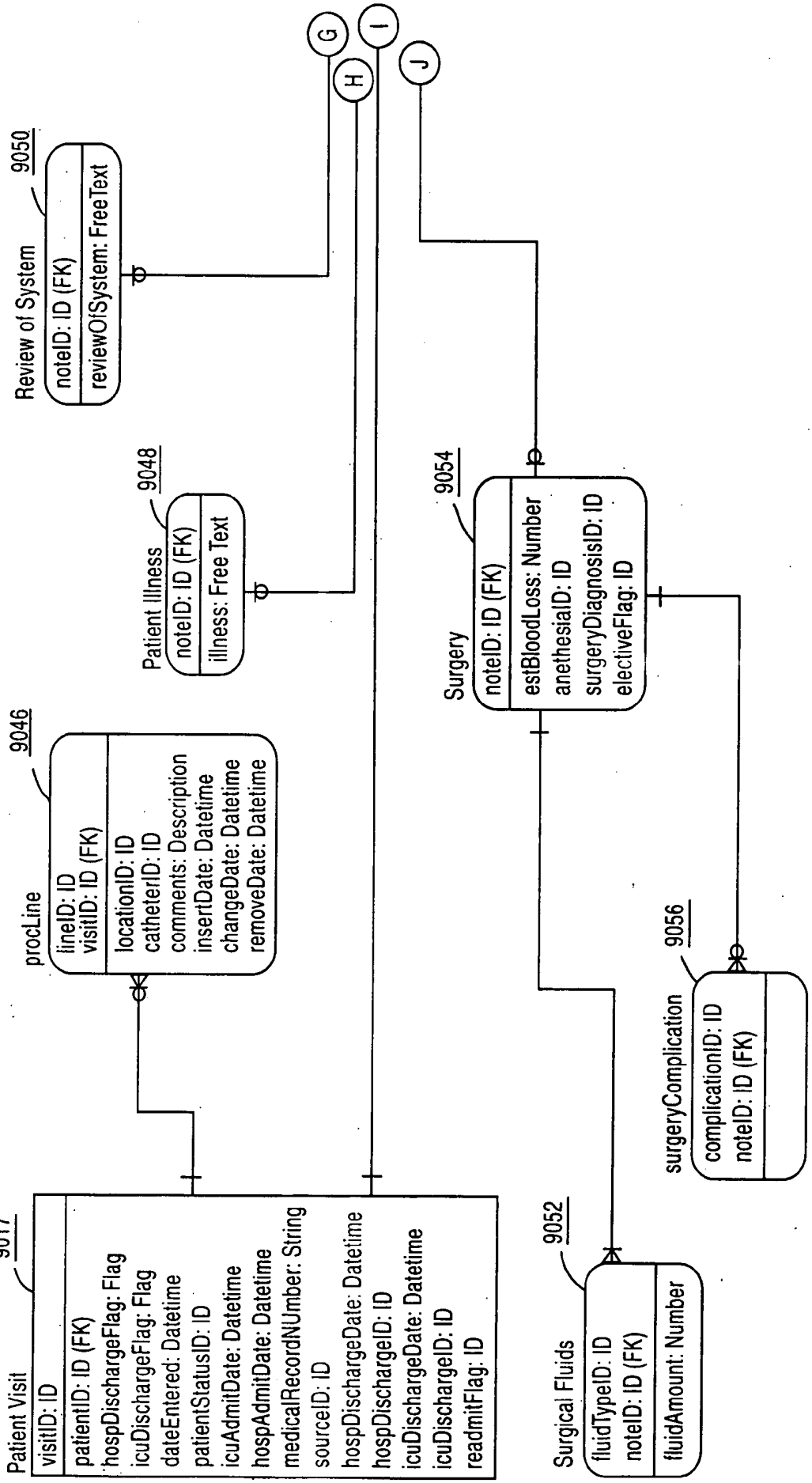

Patient Visit
9017
visitID: ID
patientID: ID (FK)
hospDischargeFlag: Flag
icuDischargeFlag: Flag
dateEntered: Datetime
patientStatusID: ID
icuAdmitDate: Datetime
hospAdmitDate: Datetime
medicalRecordNUmber: String
sourceID: ID
hospDischargeDate: Datetime
hospDischargeID: ID
icuDischargeDate: Datetime
icuDischargeID: ID
readmitFlag: ID
procLine
9046
lineID: ID
visitID: ID (FK)
locationID: ID
catheterID: ID
comments: Description
insertDate: Datetime
changeDate: Datetime
removeDate: Datetime
Patient Illness
9048
noteID: ID (FK)
illness: Free Text
Review of System
9050
noteID: ID (FK)
reviewOfSystem: FreeText
Surgery
9054
noteID: ID (FK)
estBloodLoss: Number
anethesiaID: ID
surgeryDiagnosisID: ID
electiveFlag: ID
Surgical Fluids
9052
fluidTypeID: ID
noteID: ID (FK)
fluidAmount: Number
surgeryComplication
9056
complicationID: ID
noteID: ID (FK)
G
H
I
J

FIG. 4B

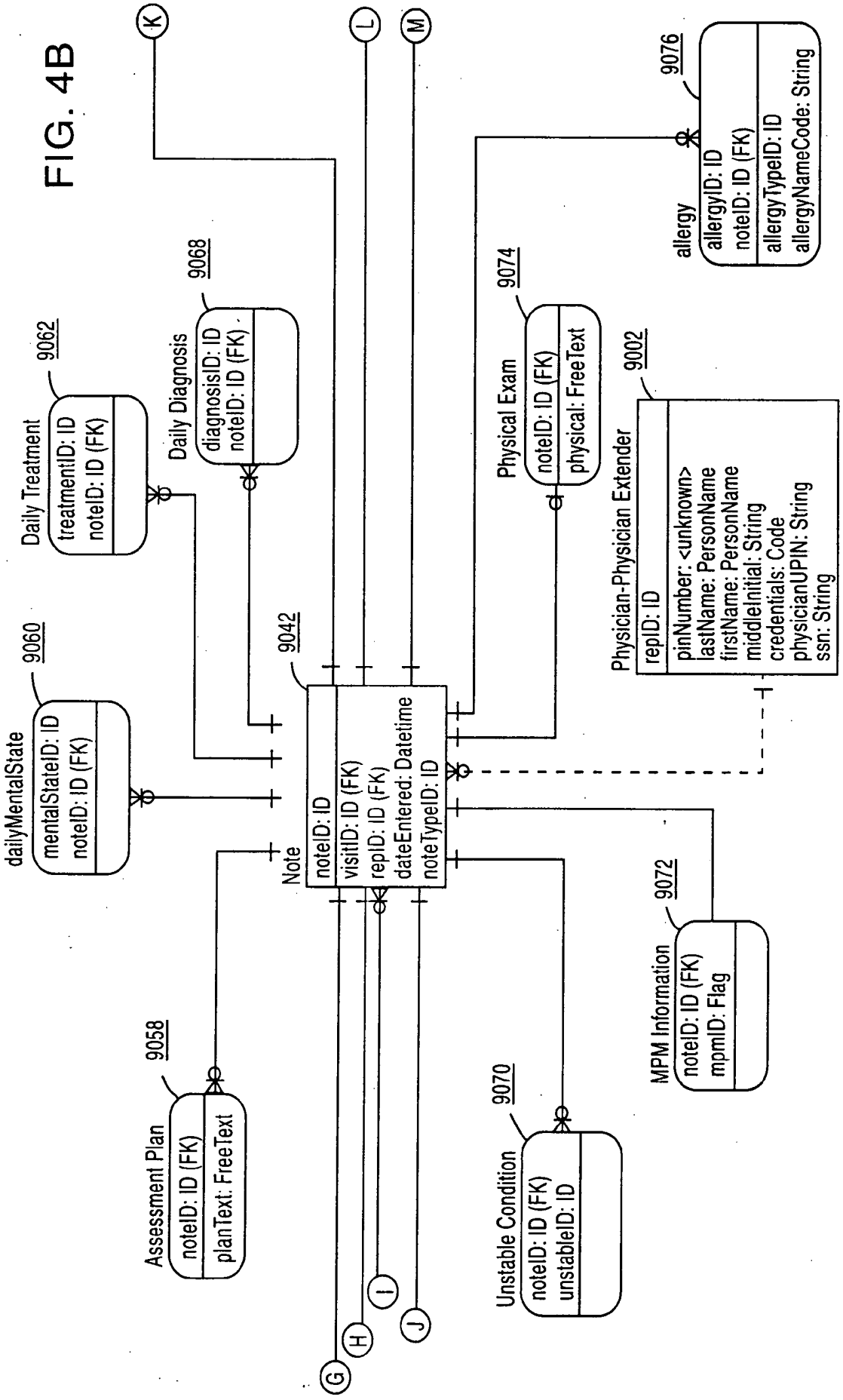
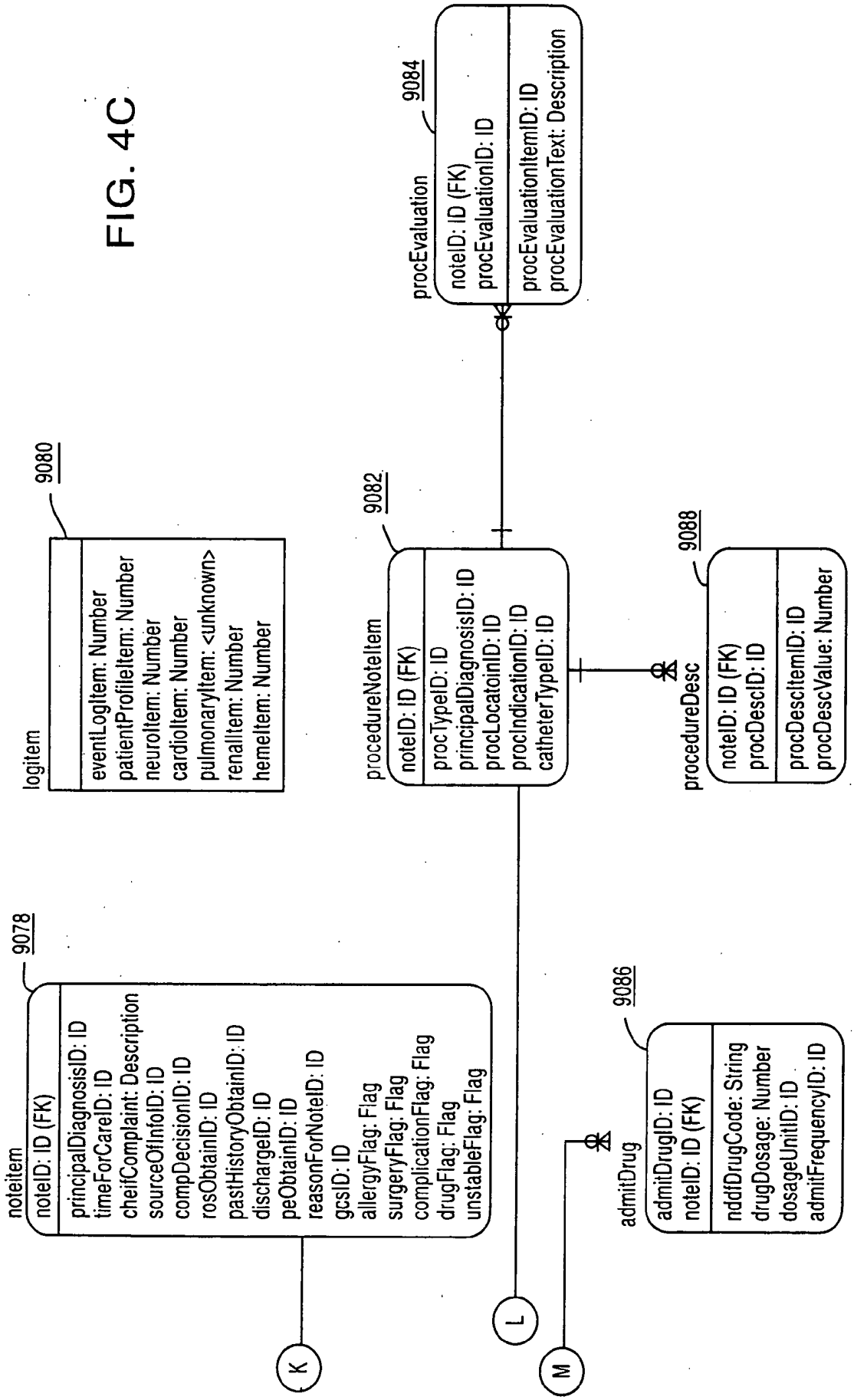

K
L
M
9076
allergy
allergyID: ID
noteID: ID (FK)
allergyTypeID: ID
allergyNameCode: String
9068
Daily Diagnosis
diagnosisID: ID
noteID: ID (FK)
9062
Daily Treatment
treatmentID: ID
noteID: ID (FK)
9074
Physical Exam
noteID: ID (FK)
physical: FreeText
9002
Physician-Physician Extender
repID: ID
pinNumber: <unknown>
lastName: PersonName
firstName: PersonName
middleInitial: String
credentials: Code
physicianUPIN: String
ssn: String
9060
dailyMentalState
mentalStateID: ID
noteID: ID (FK)
9042
Note
noteID: ID
visitID: ID (FK)
repID: ID (FK)
dateEntered: Datetime
noteTypeID: ID
9058
Assessment Plan
noteID: ID (FK)
planText: FreeText
9072
MPM Information
noteID: ID (FK)
mpmID: Flag
9070
Unstable Condition
noteID: ID (FK)
unstableID: ID
G
H
I
J

FIG. 4C


9080
logItem
eventLogItem: Number
patientProfileItem: Number
neuroItem: Number
cardioItem: Number
pulmonaryItem: <unknown>
renalItem: Number
hemeItem: Number
9084
procEvaluation
noteID: ID (FK)
procEvaluationID: ID
procEvaluationItemID: ID
procEvaluationText: Description
9082
procedureNoteItem
noteID: ID (FK)
procTypeID: ID
principalDiagnosisID: ID
procLocatoinID: ID
procIndicationID: ID
catheterTypeID: ID
9088
procedureDesc
noteID: ID (FK)
procDescID: ID
procDescItemID: ID
procDescValue: Number
9078
noteItem
noteID: ID (FK)
principalDiagnosisID: ID
timeForCareID: ID
cheifComplaint: Description
sourceOfInfoID: ID
compDecisionID: ID
rosObtainID: ID
pastHistoryObtainID: ID
dischargeID: ID
peObtainID: ID
reasonForNoteID: ID
gcsID: ID
allergyFlag: Flag
surgeryFlag: Flag
complicationFlag: Flag
drugFlag: Flag
unstableFlag: Flag
9086
admitDrug
admitDrugID: ID
noteID: ID (FK)
nddfDrugCode: String
drugDosage: Number
dosageUnitID: ID
admitFrequencyID: ID
K
L
M

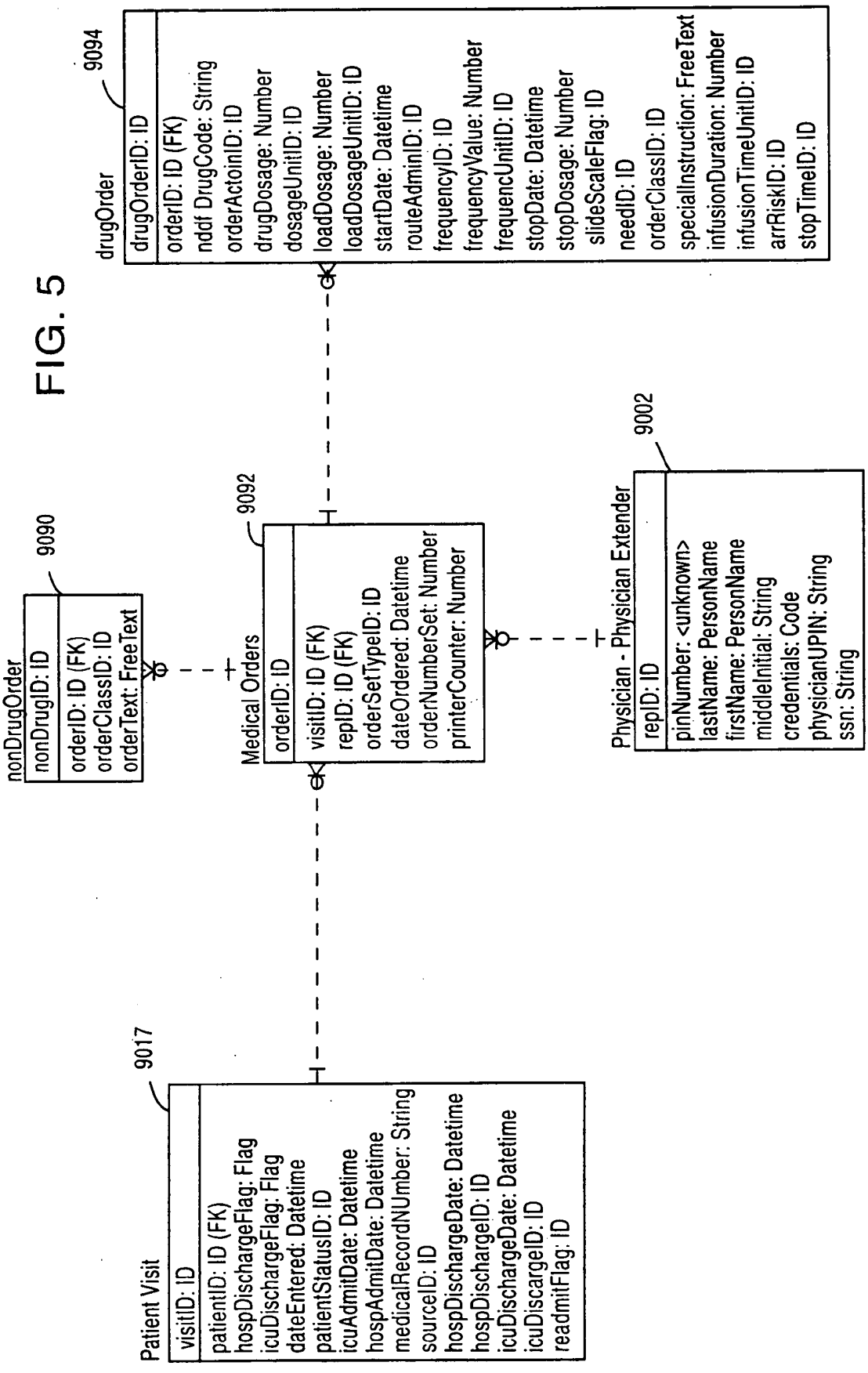
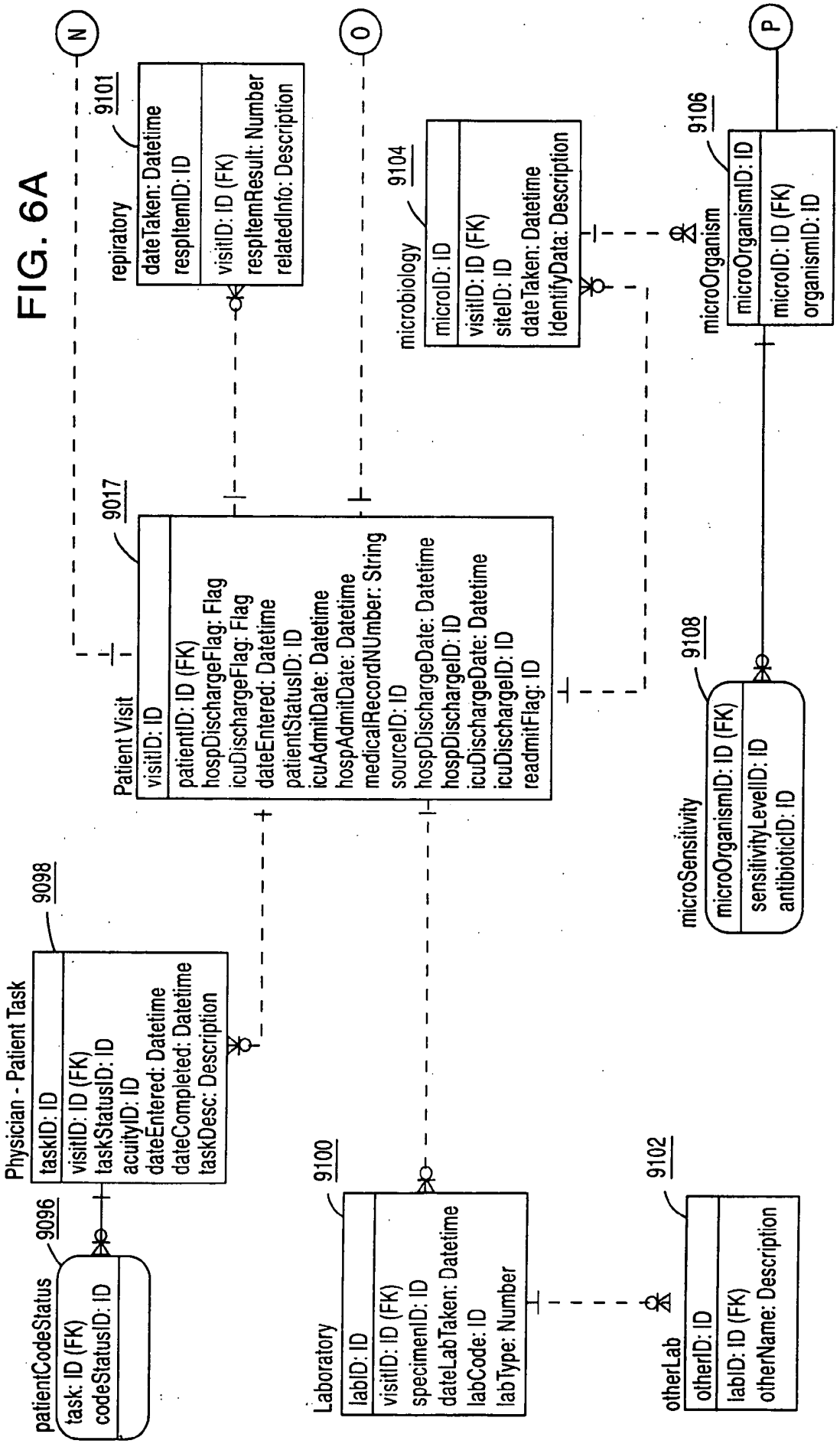

drugOrder
9094
drugOrderID: ID
orderID: ID (FK)
nddf DrugCode: String
orderActoinID: ID
drugDosage: Number
dosageUnitID: ID
loadDosage: Number
loadDosageUnitID: ID
startDate: Datetime
routeAdminID: ID
frequencyID: ID
frequencyValue: Number
frequencUnitID: ID
stopDate: Datetime
stopDosage: Number
slideScaleFlag: ID
needID: ID
orderClassID: ID
specialInstruction: FreeText
infusionDuration: Number
infusionTimeUnitID: ID
arrRiskID: ID
stopTimeID: ID
nonDrugOrder
9090
nonDrugID: ID
orderID: ID (FK)
orderClassID: ID
orderText: FreeText
Medical Orders
9092
orderID: ID
visitID: ID (FK)
repID: ID (FK)
orderSetTypeID: ID
dateOrdered: Datetime
orderNumberSet: Number
printerCounter: Number
Physician - Physician Extender
9002
repID: ID
pinNumber: <unknown>
lastName: PersonName
firstName: PersonName
middleInitial: String
credentials: Code
physicianUPIN: String
ssn: String
Patient Visit
9017
visitID: ID
patientID: ID (FK)
hospDischargeFlag: Flag
icuDischargeFlag: Flag
dateEntered: Datetime
patientStatusID: ID
icuAdmitDate: Datetime
hospAdmitDate: Datetime
medicalRecordNUmber: String
sourceID: ID
hospDischargeDate: Datetime
hospDischargeID: ID
icuDischargeDate: Datetime
icuDiscargeID: ID
readmitFlag: ID

FIG. 5

FIG. 6A


N
O
P
9101
repiratory
dateTaken: Datetime
respItemID: ID
visitID: ID (FK)
respItemResult: Number
relatedInfo: Description
9017
Patient Visit
visitID: ID
patientID: ID (FK)
hospDischargeFlag: Flag
icuDischargeFlag: Flag
dateEntered: Datetime
patientStatusID: ID
icuAdmitDate: Datetime
hospAdmitDate: Datetime
medicalRecordNUmber: String
sourceID: ID
hospDischargeDate: Datetime
hospDischargeID: ID
icuDischargeDate: Datetime
icuDischargeID: ID
readmitFlag: ID
9104
microbiology
microID: ID
visitID: ID (FK)
siteID: ID
dateTaken: Datetime
IdentifyData: Description
9106
microOrganism
microOrganismID: ID
microID: ID (FK)
organismID: ID
9108
microSensitivity
microOrganismID: ID (FK)
sensitivityLevelID: ID
antibioticID: ID
9098
Physician - Patient Task
taskID: ID
visitID: ID (FK)
taskStatusID: ID
acuityID: ID
dateEntered: Datetime
dateCompleted: Datetime
taskDesc: Description
9096
patientCodeStatus
task: ID (FK)
codeStatusID: ID
9100
Laboratory
labID: ID
visitID: ID (FK)
specimenID: ID
dateLabTaken: Datetime
labCode: ID
labType: Number
9102
otherLab
otherID: ID
labID: ID (FK)
otherName: Description

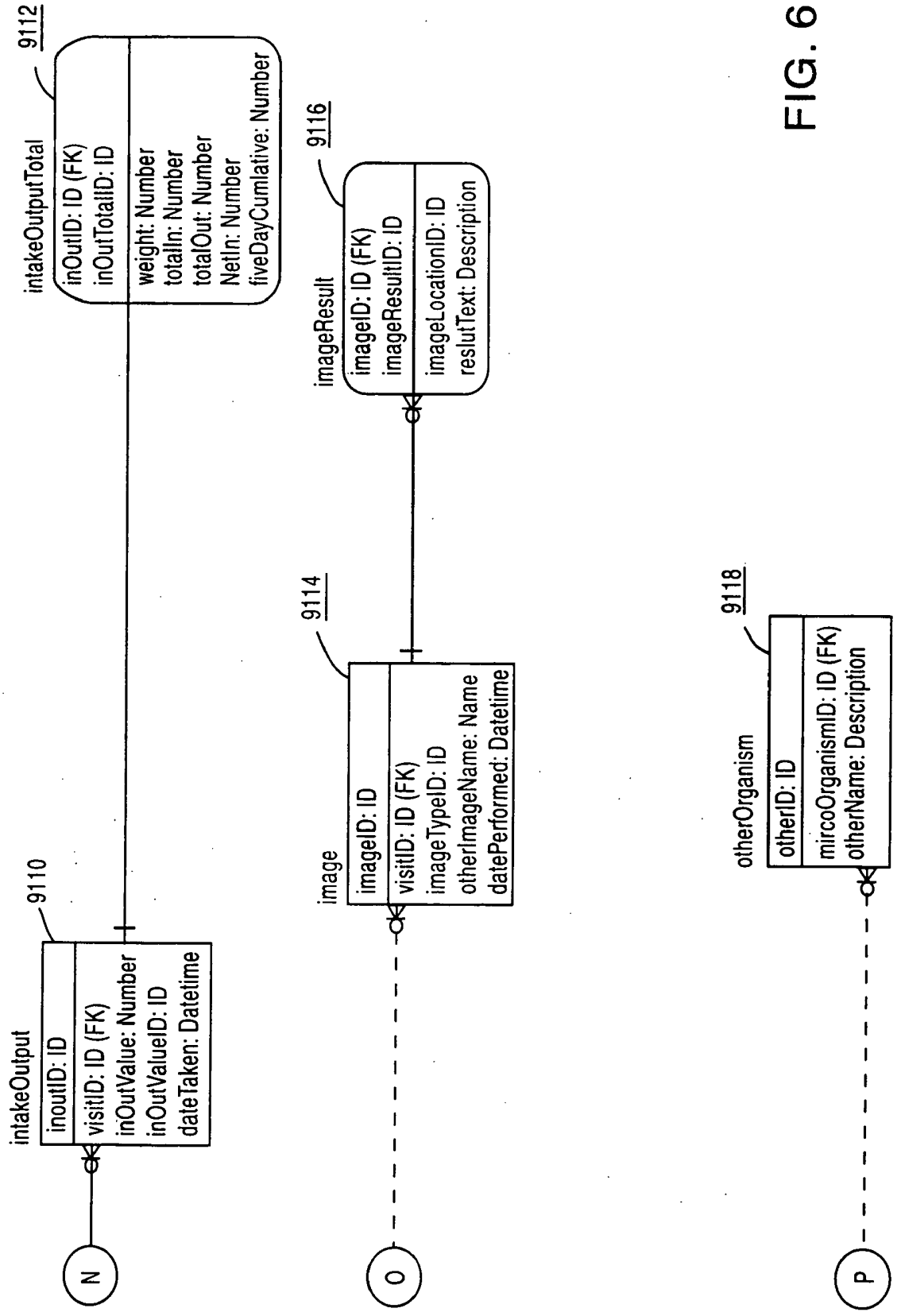

intakeOutput
9110
inoutID: ID
visitID: ID (FK)
inOutValue: Number
inOutValueID: ID
dateTaken: Datetime
N
intakeOutputTotal
9112
inOutID: ID (FK)
inOutTotalID: ID
weight: Number
totalIn: Number
totalOut: Number
NetIn: Number
fiveDayCumlative: Number
image
9114
imageID: ID
visitID: ID (FK)
imageTypeID: ID
otherImageName: Name
datePerformed: Datetime
O
imageResult
9116
imageID: ID (FK)
imageResultID: ID
imageLocationID: ID
reslutText: Description
otherOrganism
9118
otherID: ID
mircoOrganismID: ID (FK)
otherName: Description
P

FIG. 6B

FIG. 7

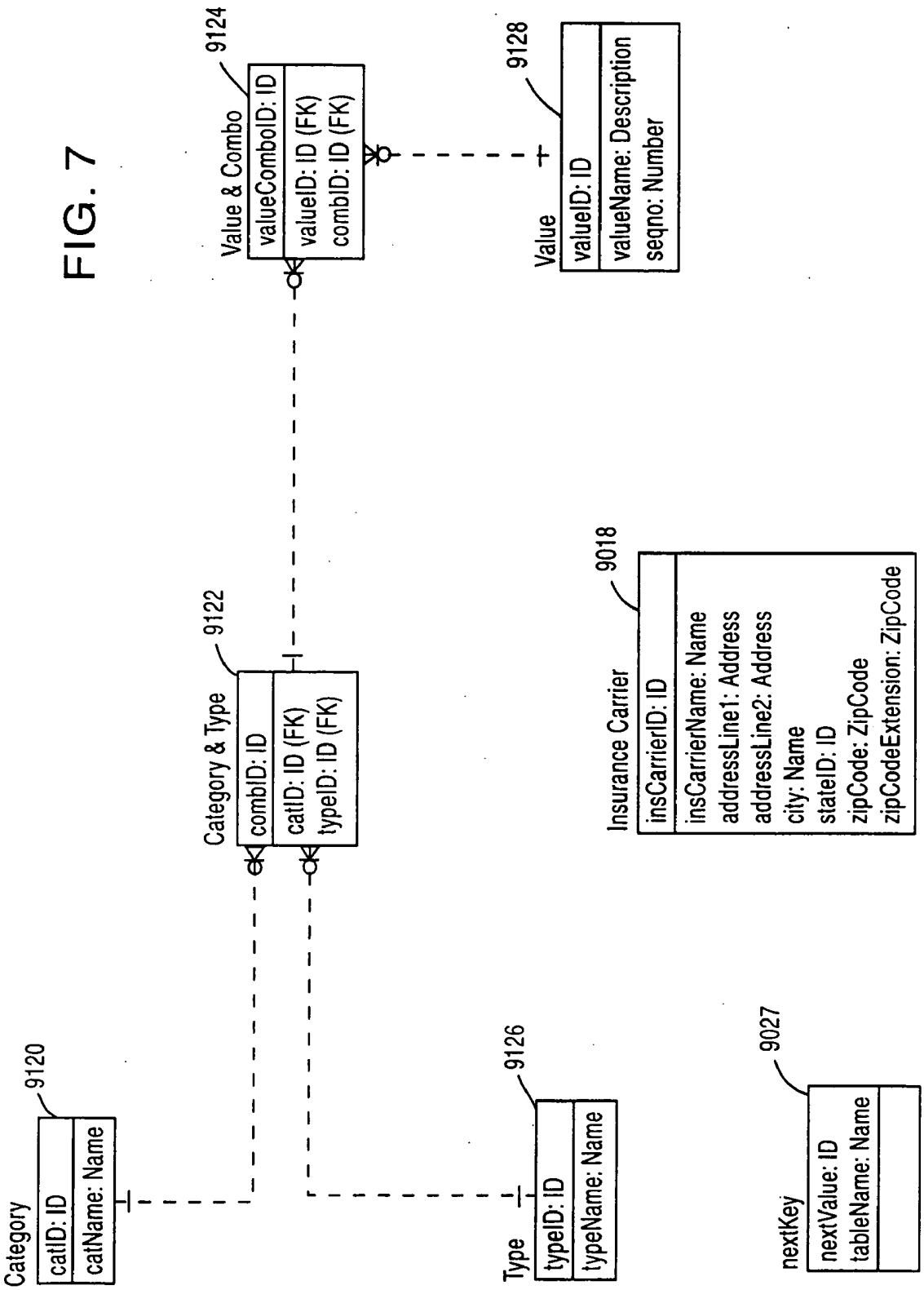
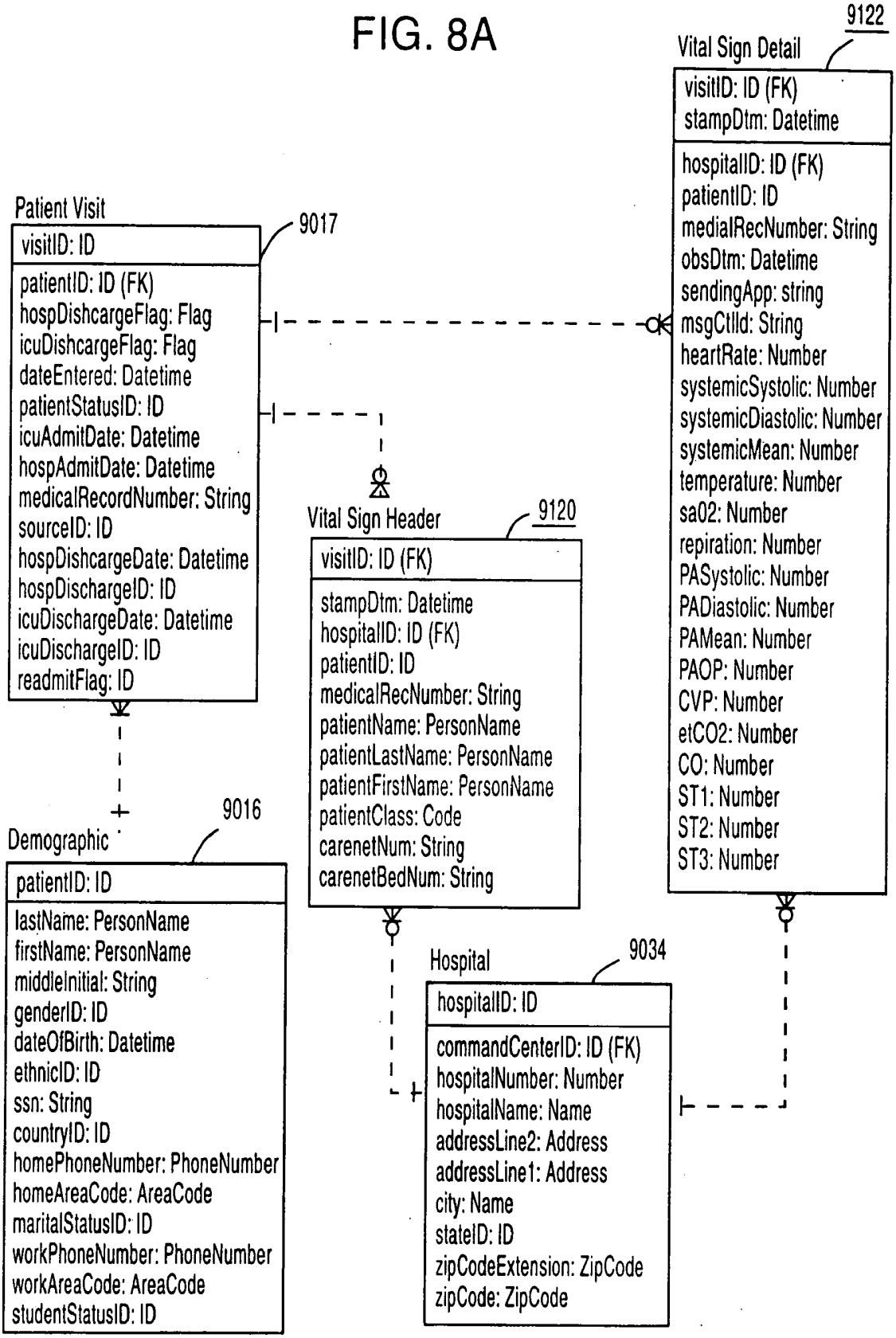

9124
Value & Combo
valueComboID: ID
valueID: ID (FK)
comboID: ID (FK)
9128
Value
valueID: ID
valueName: Description
seqno: Number
9122
Category & Type
comboID: ID
catID: ID (FK)
typeID: ID (FK)
9018
Insurance Carrier
insCarrierID: ID
insCarrierName: Name
addressLine1: Address
addressLine2: Address
city: Name
stateID: ID
zipCode: ZipCode
zipCodeExtension: ZipCode
9120
Category
catID: ID
catName: Name
9126
Type
typeID: ID
typeName: Name
9027
nextKey
nextValue: ID
tableName: Name

FIG. 8A


9122
Vital Sign Detail
visitID: ID (FK)
stampDtm: Datetime
hospitalID: ID (FK)
patientID: ID
medialRecNumber: String
obsDtm: Datetime
sendingApp: string
msgCtlId: String
heartRate: Number
systemicSystolic: Number
systemicDiastolic: Number
systemicMean: Number
temperature: Number
sa02: Number
repiration: Number
PASystolic: Number
PADiastolic: Number
PAMean: Number
PAOP: Number
CVP: Number
etCO2: Number
CO: Number
ST1: Number
ST2: Number
ST3: Number
Patient Visit
9017
visitID: ID
patientID: ID (FK)
hospDishcargeFlag: Flag
icuDishcargeFlag: Flag
dateEntered: Datetime
patientStatusID: ID
icuAdmitDate: Datetime
hospAdmitDate: Datetime
medicalRecordNumber: String
sourceID: ID
hospDishcargeDate: Datetime
hospDischargeID: ID
icuDischargeDate: Datetime
icuDischargeID: ID
readmitFlag: ID
Vital Sign Header
9120
visitID: ID (FK)
stampDtm: Datetime
hospitalID: ID (FK)
patientID: ID
medicalRecNumber: String
patientName: PersonName
patientLastName: PersonName
patientFirstName: PersonName
patientClass: Code
carenetNum: String
carenetBedNum: String
Demographic
9016
patientID: ID
lastName: PersonName
firstName: PersonName
middleInitial: String
genderID: ID
dateOfBirth: Datetime
ethnicID: ID
ssn: String
countryID: ID
homePhoneNumber: PhoneNumber
homeAreaCode: AreaCode
maritalStatusID: ID
workPhoneNumber: PhoneNumber
workAreaCode: AreaCode
studentStatusID: ID
Hospital
9034
hospitalID: ID
commandCenterID: ID (FK)
hospitalNumber: Number
hospitalName: Name
addressLine2: Address
addressLine1: Address
city: Name
stateID: ID
zipCodeExtension: ZipCode
zipCode: ZipCode

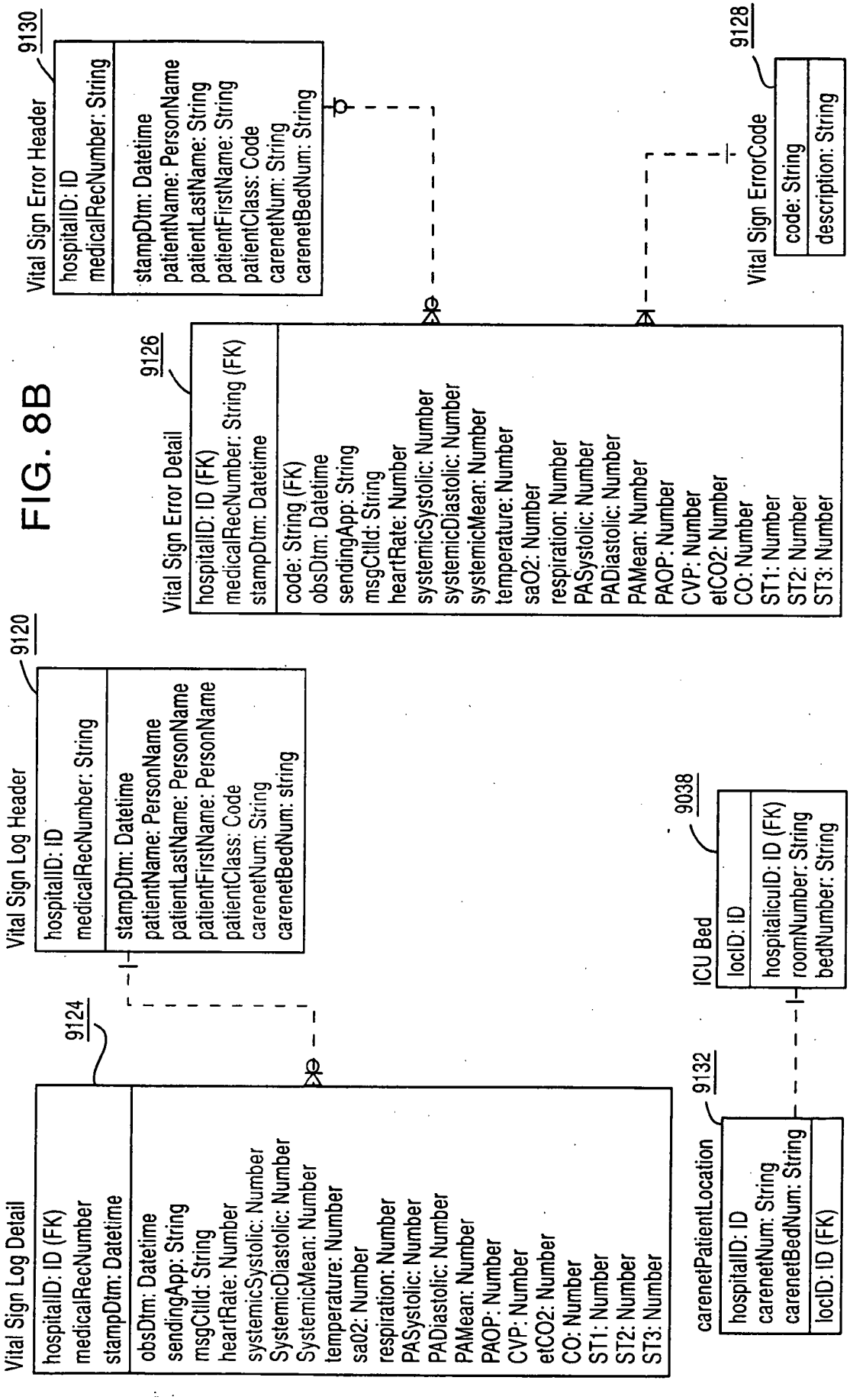

Vital Sign Log Detail
hospitalID: ID (FK)
medicalRecNumber
stampDtm: Datetime
obsDtm: Datetime
sendingApp: String
msgCtlId: String
heartRate: Number
systemicSystolic: Number
SystemicDiastolic: Number
SystemicMean: Number
temperature: Number
sa02: Number
respiration: Number
PASystolic: Number
PADiastolic: Number
PAMean: Number
PAOP: Number
CVP: Number
etCO2: Number
CO: Number
ST1: Number
ST2: Number
ST3: Number
9124
Vital Sign Log Header
hospitalID: ID
medicalRecNumber: String
stampDtm: Datetime
patientName: PersonName
patientLastName: PersonName
patientFirstName: PersonName
patientClass: Code
carenetNum: String
carenetBedNum: string
9120
Vital Sign Error Detail
hospitalID: ID (FK)
medicalRecNumber: String (FK)
stampDtm: Datetime
code: String (FK)
obsDtm: Datetime
sendingApp: String
msgCtlId: String
heartRate: Number
systemicSystolic: Number
systemicDiastolic: Number
systemicMean: Number
temperature: Number
saO2: Number
respiration: Number
PASystolic: Number
PADiastolic: Number
PAMean: Number
PAOP: Number
CVP: Number
etCO2: Number
CO: Number
ST1: Number
ST2: Number
ST3: Number
9126
Vital Sign Error Header
hospitalID: ID
medicalRecNumber: String
stampDtm: Datetime
patientName: PersonName
patientLastName: String
patientFirstName: String
patientClass: Code
carenetNum: String
carenetBedNum: String
9130
Vital Sign ErrorCode
code: String
description: String
9128
ICU Bed
locID: ID
hospitalicuID: ID (FK)
roomNumber: String
bedNumber: String
9038
carenetPatientLocation
hospitalID: ID
carenetNum: String
carenetBedNum: String
locID: ID (FK)
9132

FIG. 8B

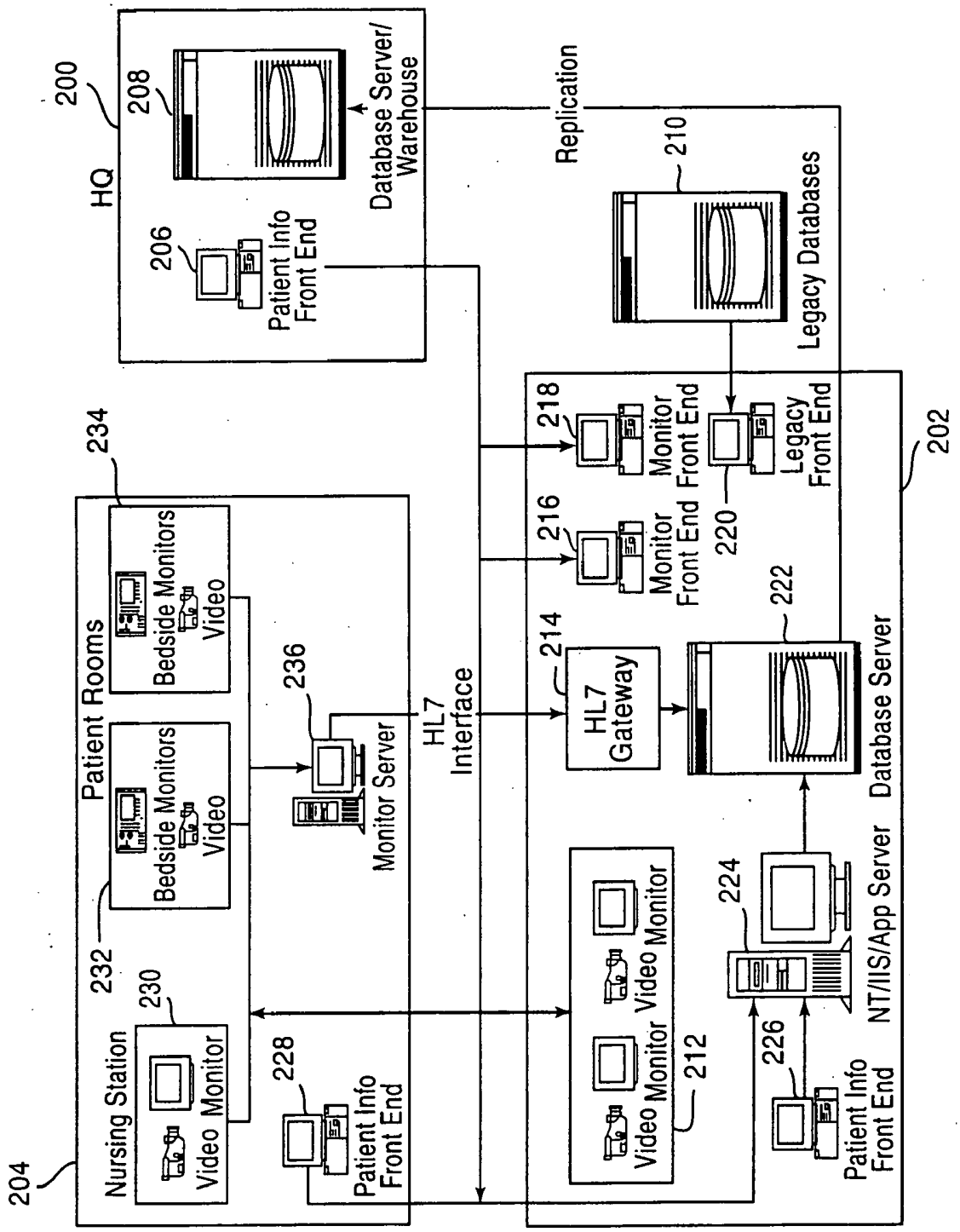

200
HQ
208
Database Server/
Warehouse
206
Patient Info
Front End
Replication
210
Legacy Databases
218
Monitor
Front End
Legacy
Front End
216
Monitor
Front End
220
222
214
HL7
Gateway
Database Server
202
234
Patient Rooms
Bedside Monitors
Video
236
Monitor Server
HL7
Interface
Bedside Monitors
Video
232
230
Nursing Station
Video Monitor
228
Patient Info
Front End
Video Monitor
Video Monitor
212
224
226
Patient Info
Front End
NT/IIS/App Server
204

Fig.9

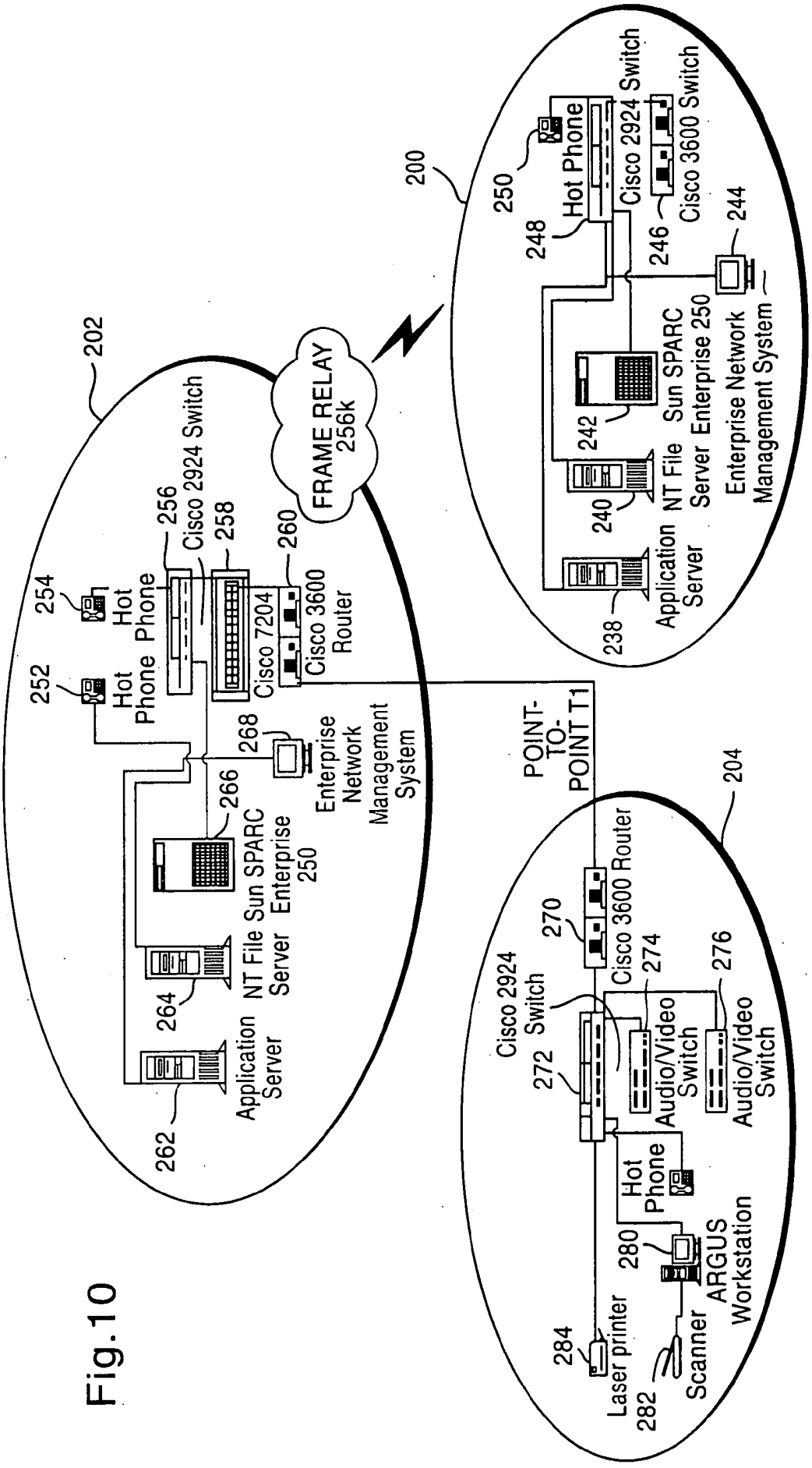

200
202
204
250
Hot Phone
Cisco 2924 Switch
Cisco 3600 Switch
248
246
244
242
Sun SPARC Server Enterprise 250
NT File Server
240
Application Server
238
Enterprise Network Management System
FRAME RELAY 256k
POINT-TO-POINT T1
256
Cisco 2924 Switch
258
260
Cisco 7204
Cisco 3600 Router
254
Hot Phone
252
Hot Phone
268
Enterprise Network Management System
266
Sun SPARC Enterprise 250
NT File Server
264
Application Server
262
270
Cisco 3600 Router
Cisco 2924 Switch
272
274
Audio/Video Switch
276
Audio/Video Switch
Hot Phone
280
ARGUS Workstation
284
Laser printer
282
Scanner

Fig.10

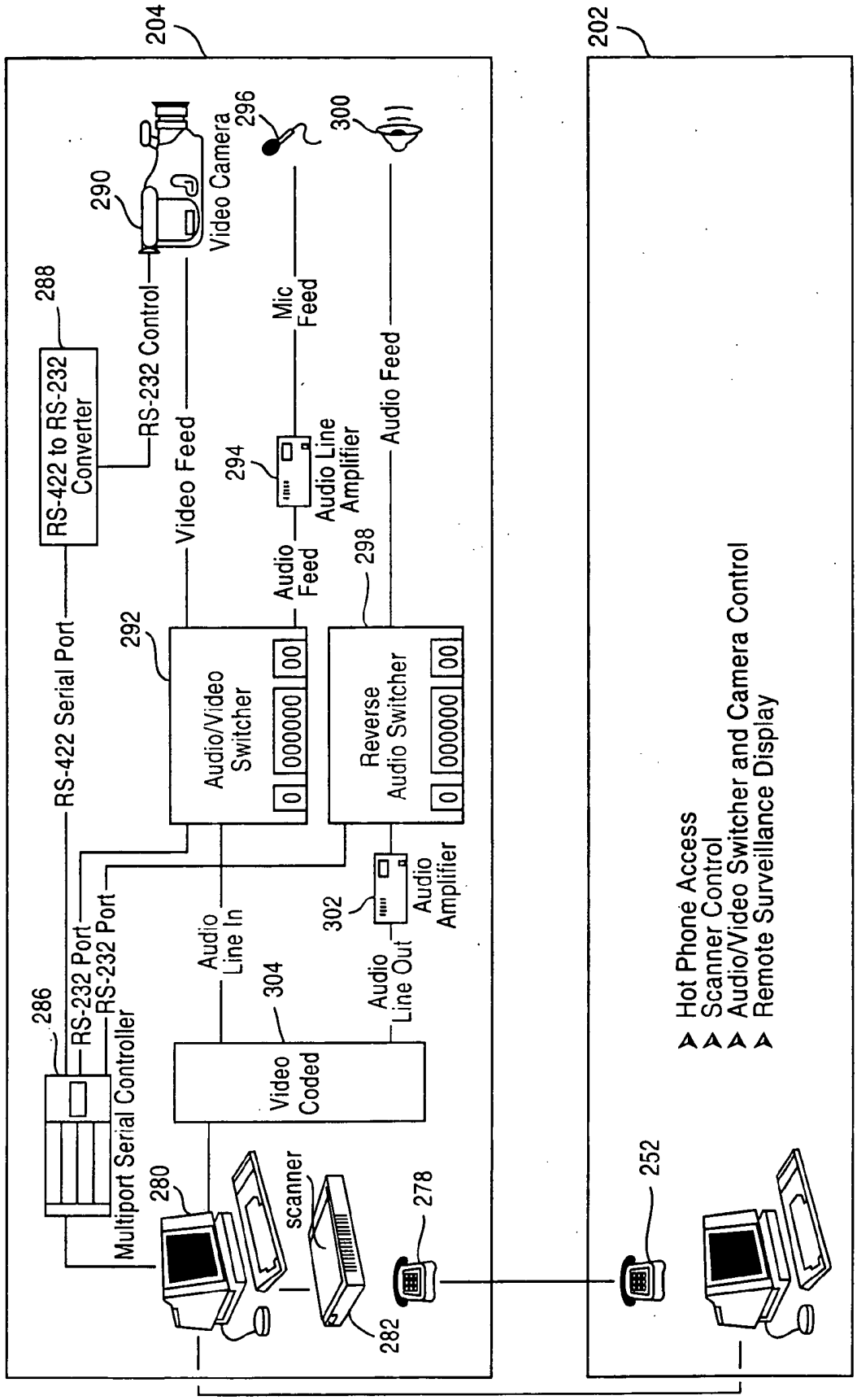
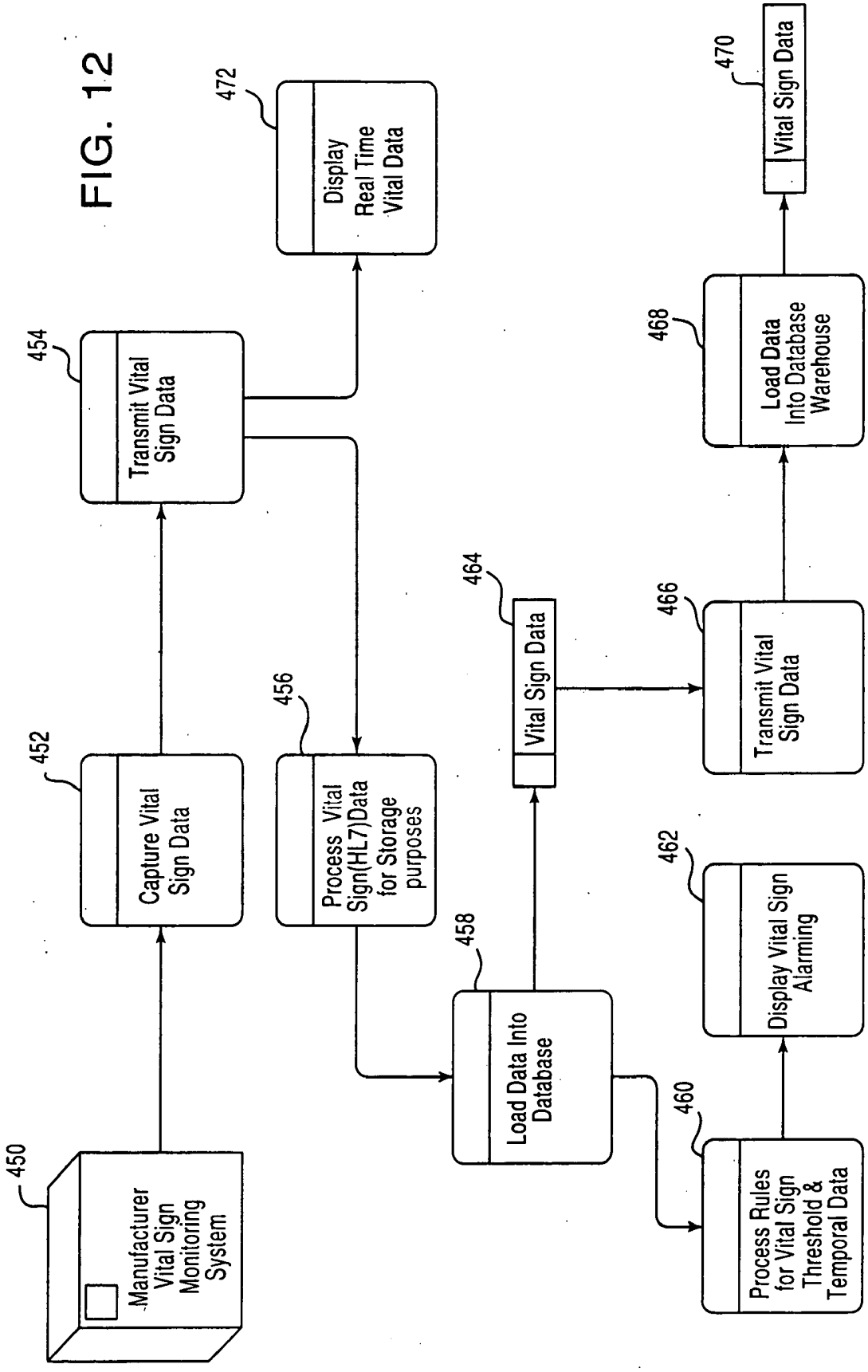

204
202
290
Video Camera
296
300
288
RS-422 to RS-232 Converter
RS-232 Control
Mic Feed
Video Feed
294
Audio Line Amplifier
Audio Feed
292
Audio/Video Switcher
0 000000 00
Audio Feed
298
Reverse Audio Switcher
0 000000 00
RS-422 Serial Port
RS-232 Port
RS-232 Port
286
Multiport Serial Controller
Audio Line In
302
Audio Amplifier
304
Video Coded
Audio Line Out
280
scanner
278
282
252
Hot Phone Access
Scanner Control
Audio/Video Switcher and Camera Control
Remote Surveillance Display

Fig. 11

FIG. 12


450
Manufacturer Vital Sign Monitoring System
452
Capture Vital Sign Data
454
Transmit Vital Sign Data
456
Process Vital Sign(HL7)Data for Storage purposes
458
Load Data Into Database
460
Process Rules for Vital Sign Threshold & Temporal Data
462
Display Vital Sign Alarming
464
Vital Sign Data
466
Transmit Vital Sign Data
468
Load Data Into Database Warehouse
470
Vital Sign Data
472
Display Real Time Vital Data

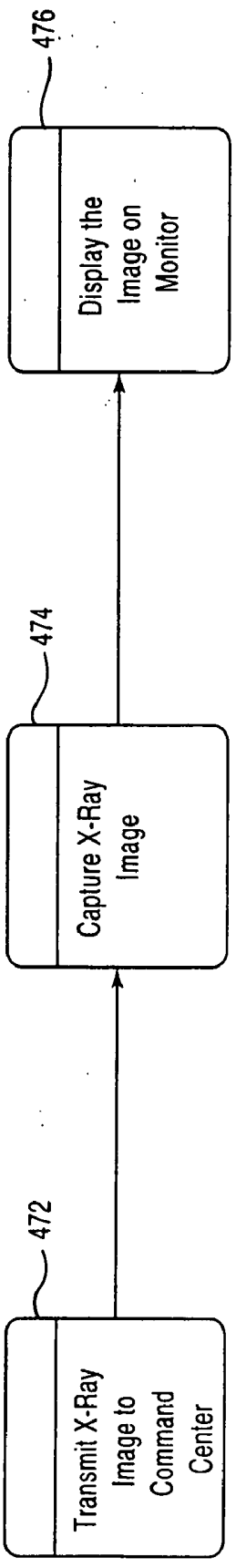


FIG. 13A

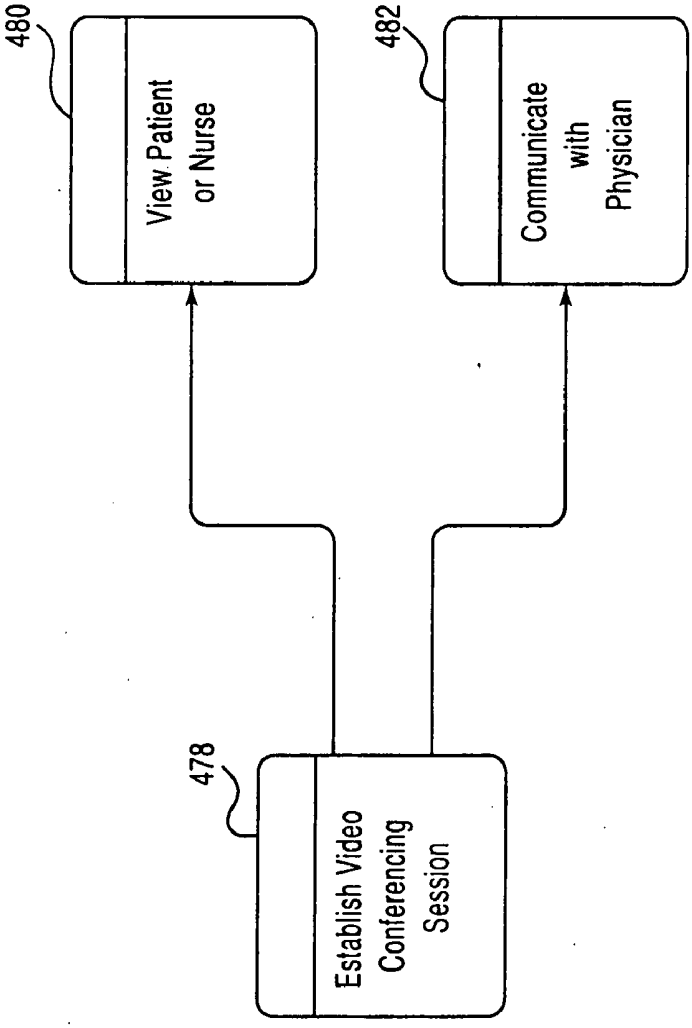


FIG. 13B

FIG. 14

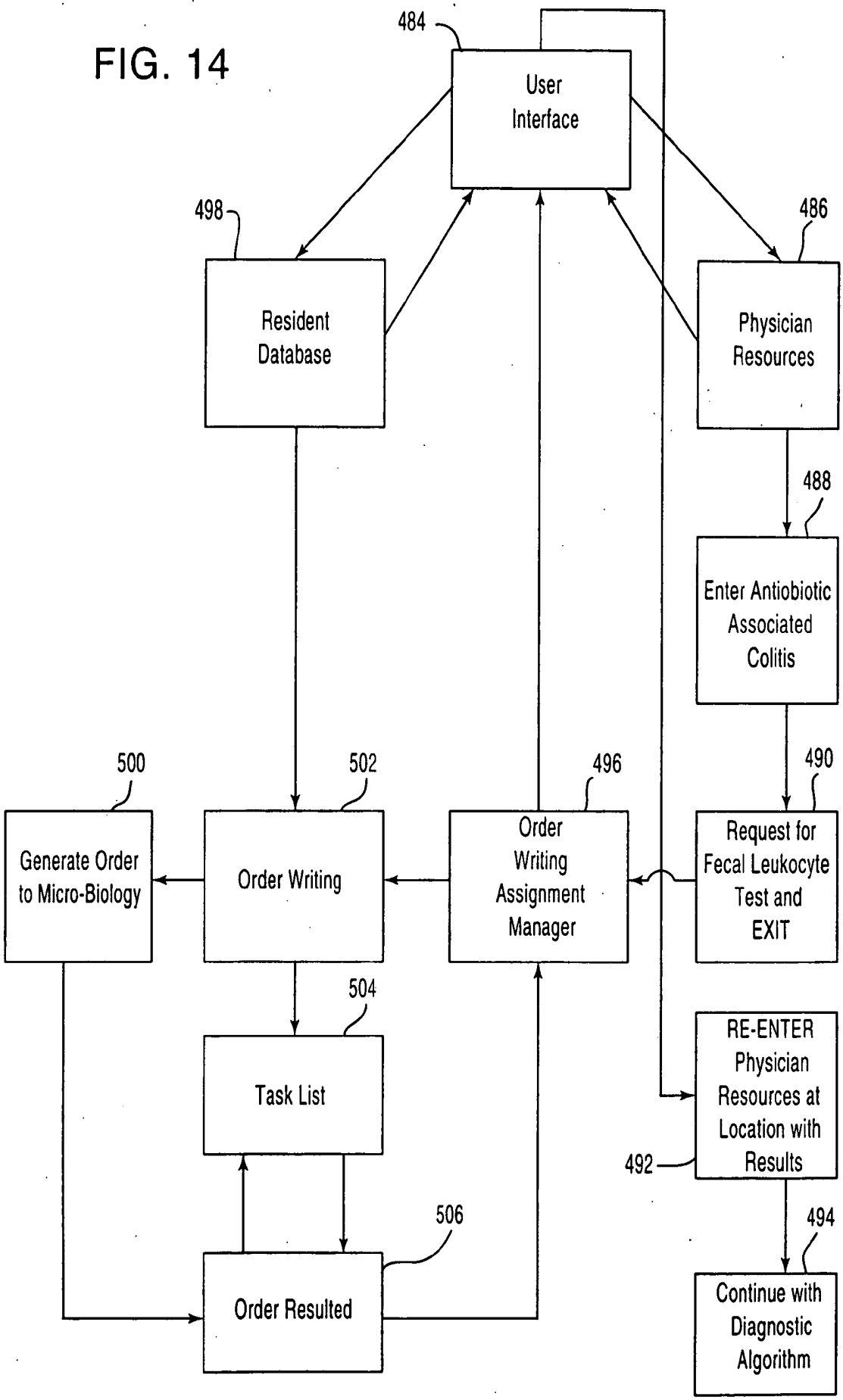

484
User Interface
498
Resident Database
486
Physician Resources
488
Enter Antiobiotic Associated Colitis
490
Request for Fecal Leukocyte Test and EXIT
496
Order Writing Assignment Manager
500
Generate Order to Micro-Biology
502
Order Writing
504
Task List
506
Order Resulted
492
RE-ENTER Physician Resources at Location with Results
494
Continue with Diagnostic Algorithm

FIG. 15

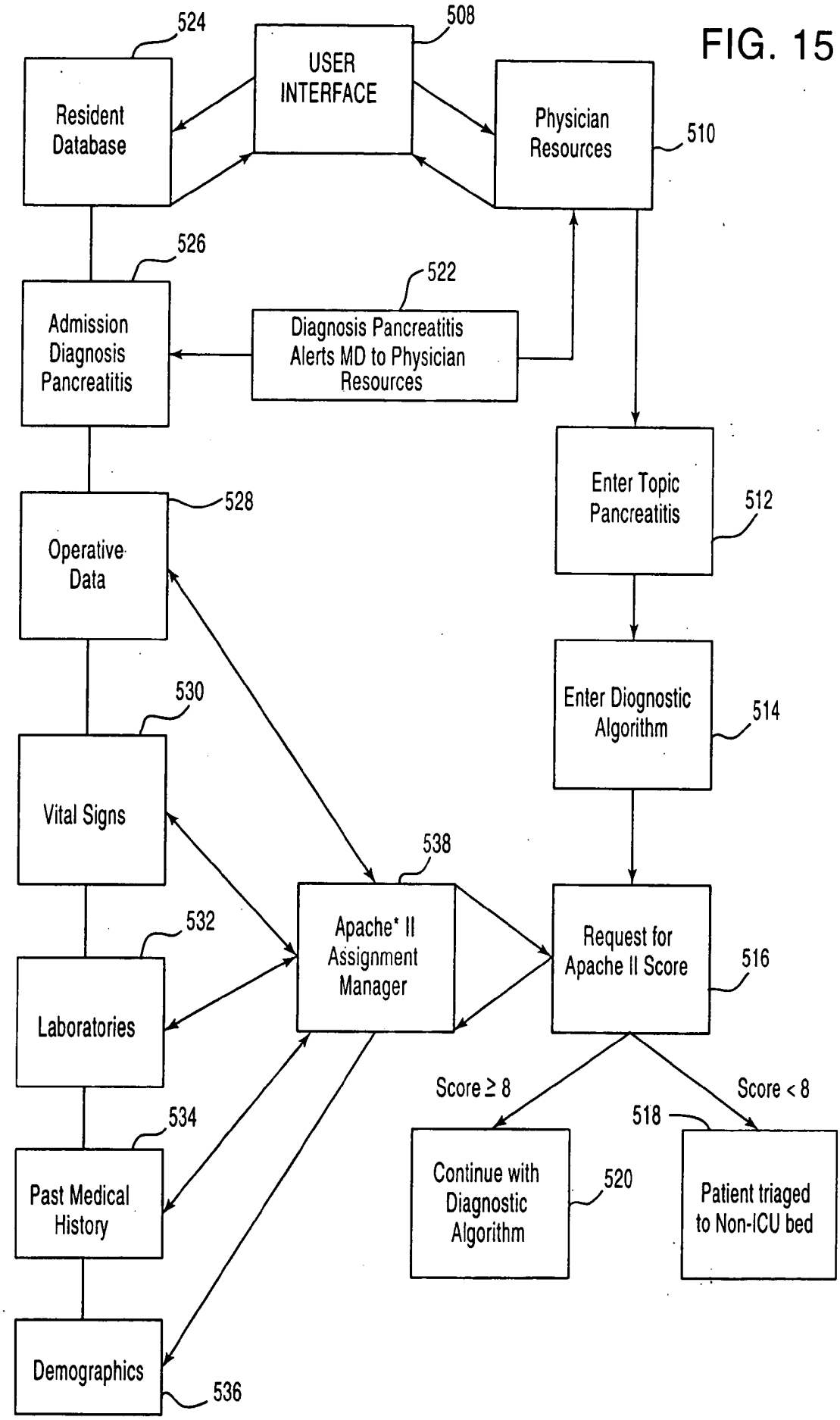

524
508
USER INTERFACE
Resident Database
Physician Resources
510
526
522
Admission Diagnosis Pancreatitis
Diagnosis Pancreatitis Alerts MD to Physician Resources
Enter Topic Pancreatitis
512
528
Operative Data
Enter Diognostic Algorithm
514
530
Vital Signs
538
532
Apache* II Assignment Manager
Request for Apache II Score
516
Laboratories
Score ≥ 8
Score < 8
534
518
Continue with Diagnostic Algorithm
520
Patient triaged to Non-ICU bed
Past Medical History
Demographics
536

FIG. 16

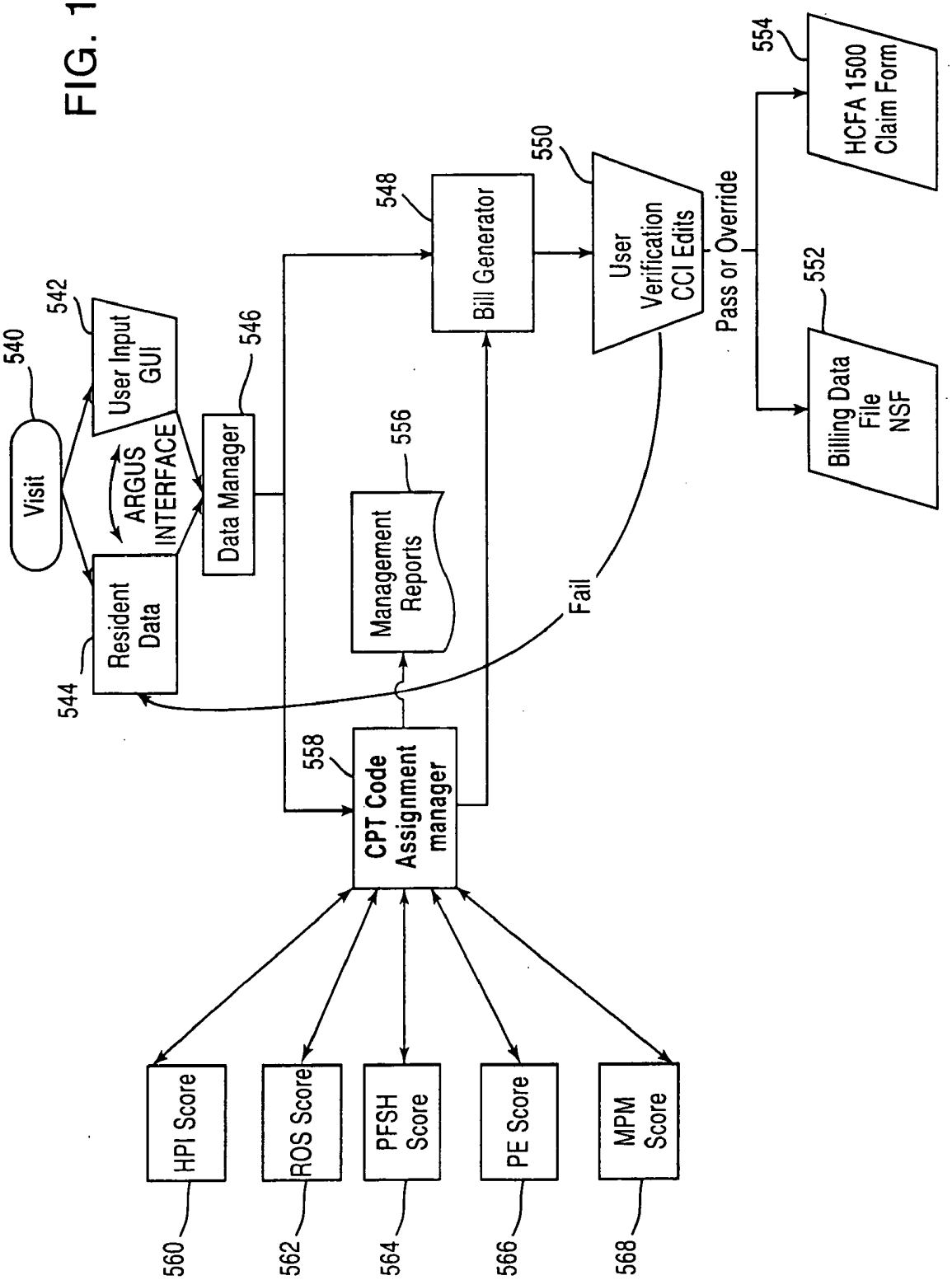

Visit
540
User Input GUI
542
ARGUS INTERFACE
Resident Data
544
Data Manager
546
Bill Generator
548
User Verification CCI Edits
550
Pass or Override
HCFA 1500 Claim Form
554
Billing Data File NSF
552
Management Reports
556
Fail
CPT Code Assignment manager
558
HPI Score
560
ROS Score
562
PFSH Score
564
PE Score
566
MPM Score
568

FIG. 17

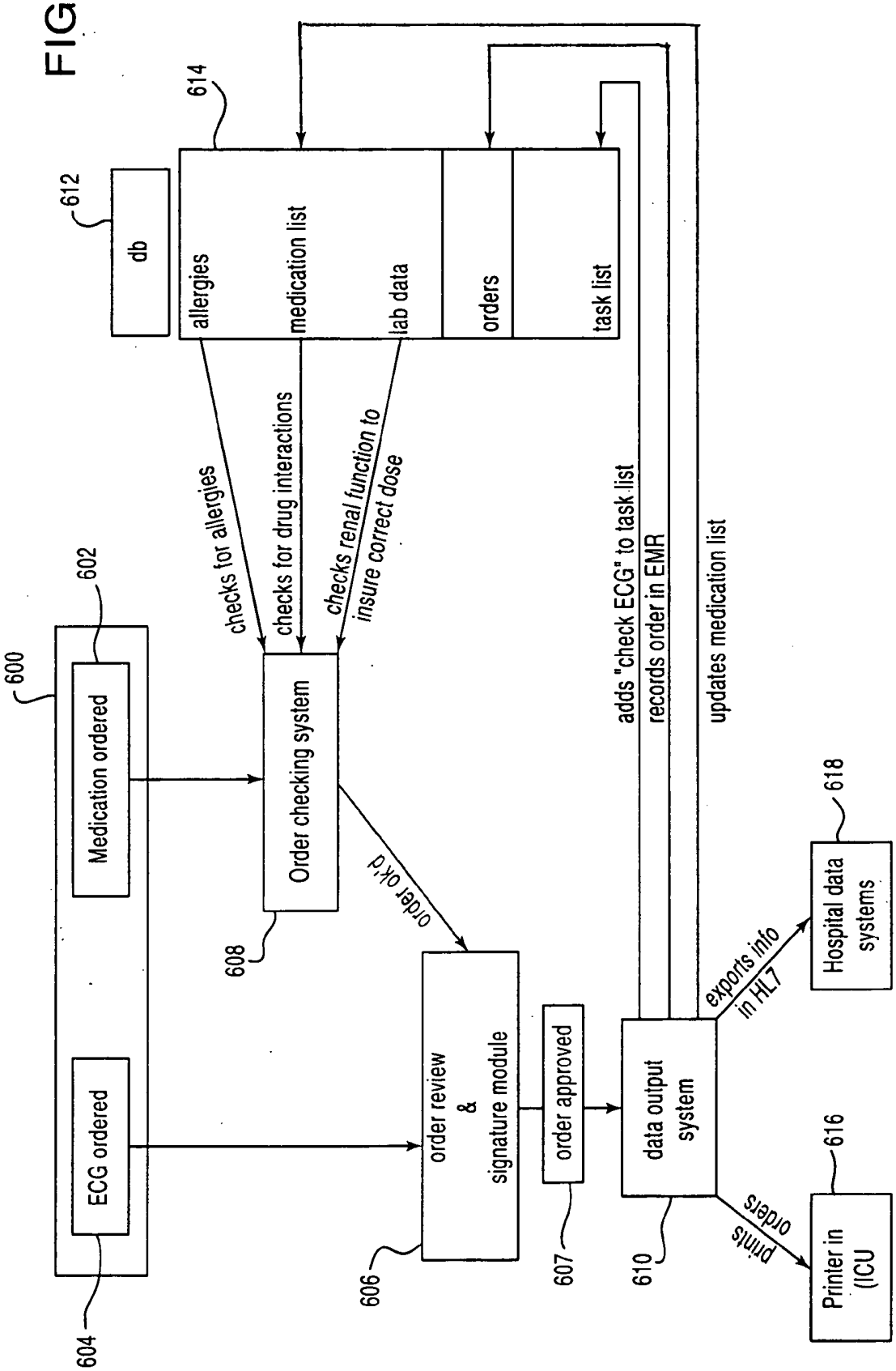

614
612
db
allergies
medication list
lab data
orders
task list
checks for allergies
checks for drug interactions
checks renal function to insure correct dose
adds "check ECG" to task list
records order in EMR
updates medication list
600
602
Medication ordered
ECG ordered
604
Order checking system
608
order ok'd
order review & signature module
606
order approved
607
data output system
610
exports info in HL7
Hospital data systems
618
prints orders
Printer in (ICU
616

FIG. 18

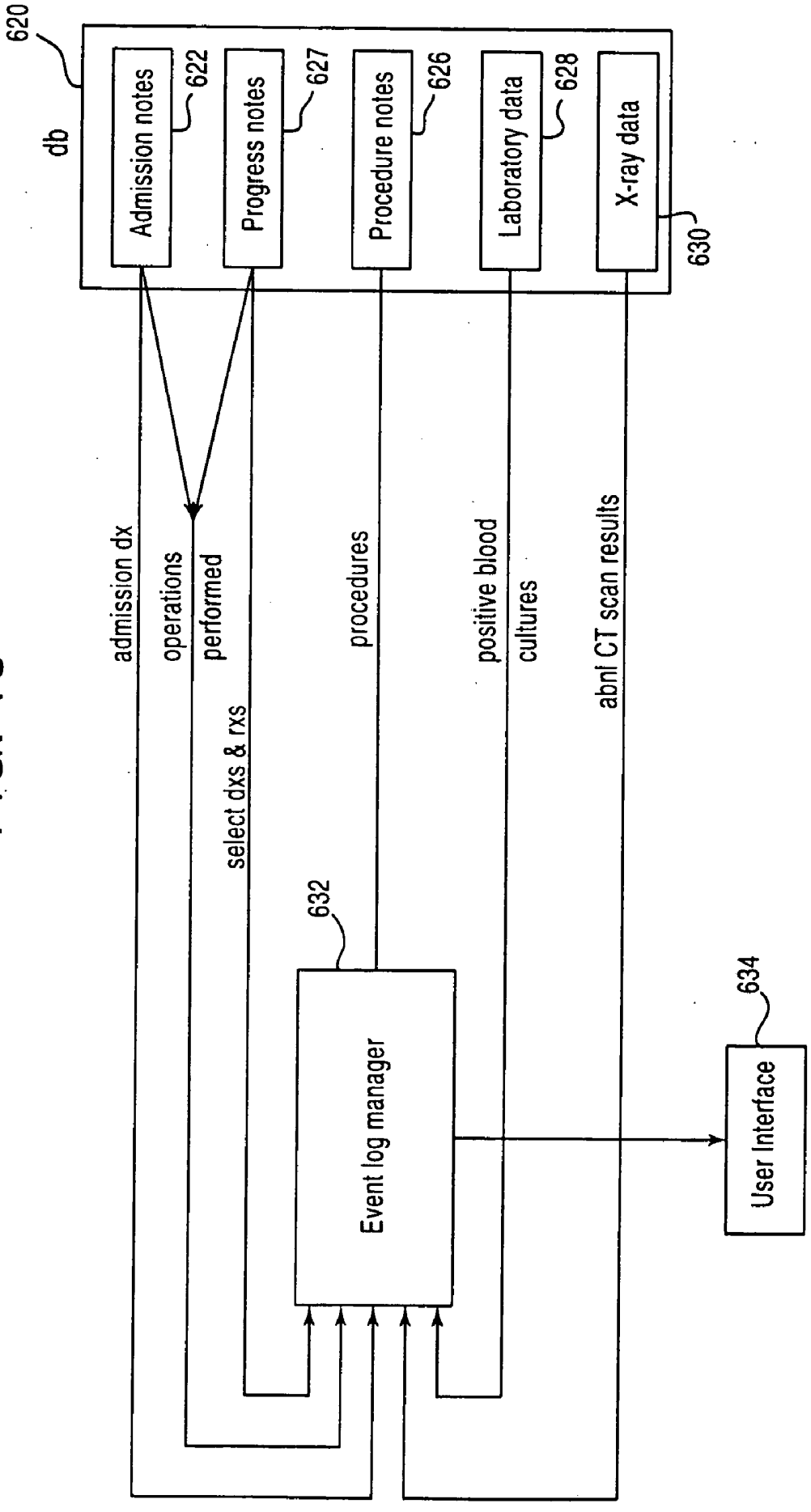

620
db
Admission notes
622
Progress notes
627
Procedure notes
626
Laboratory data
628
X-ray data
630
admission dx
operations performed
select dxs & rxs
procedures
positive blood cultures
abnl CT scan results
632
Event log manager
634
User Interface

FIG. 19

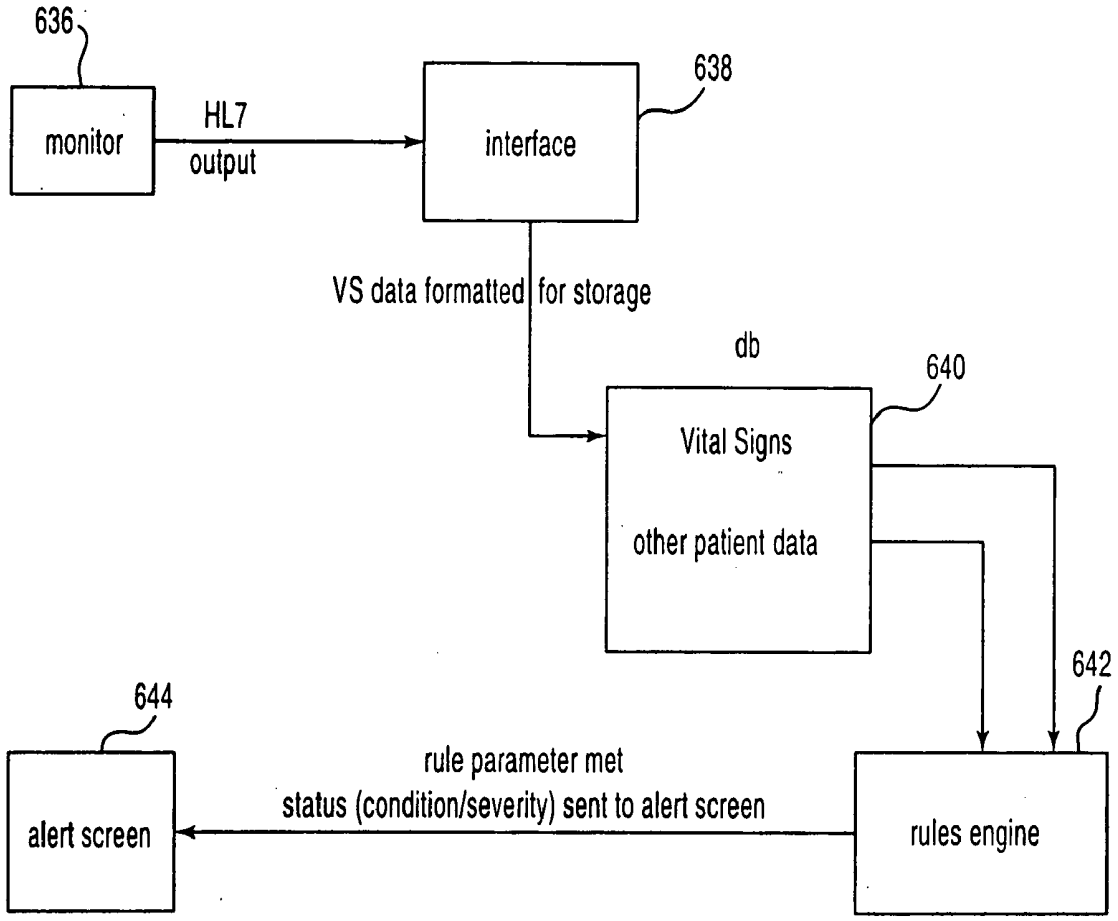
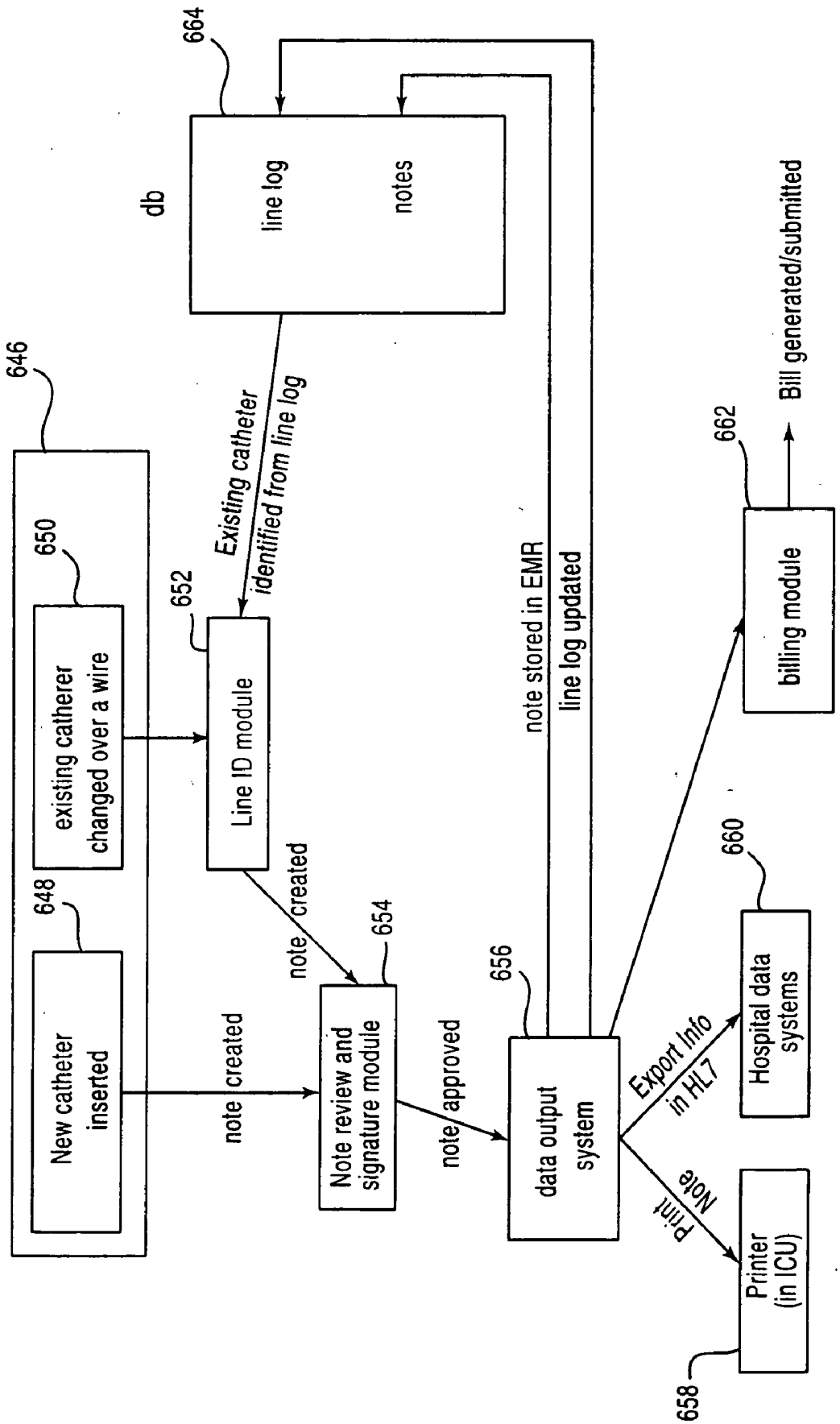

636
monitor
HL7
output
interface
638
VS data formatted for storage
db
640
Vital Signs
other patient data
642
644
alert screen
rule parameter met
status (condition/severity) sent to alert screen
rules engine

FIG. 20


664
db
line log
notes
646
650
existing catheter changed over a wire
652
Line ID module
Existing catheter identified from line log
note created
654
Note review and signature module
note approved
656
data output system
note stored in EMR
line log updated
662
billing module
Bill generated/submitted
660
Hospital data systems
Export Info in HL7
Note Print
Printer (in ICU)
658
648
New catheter inserted
note created

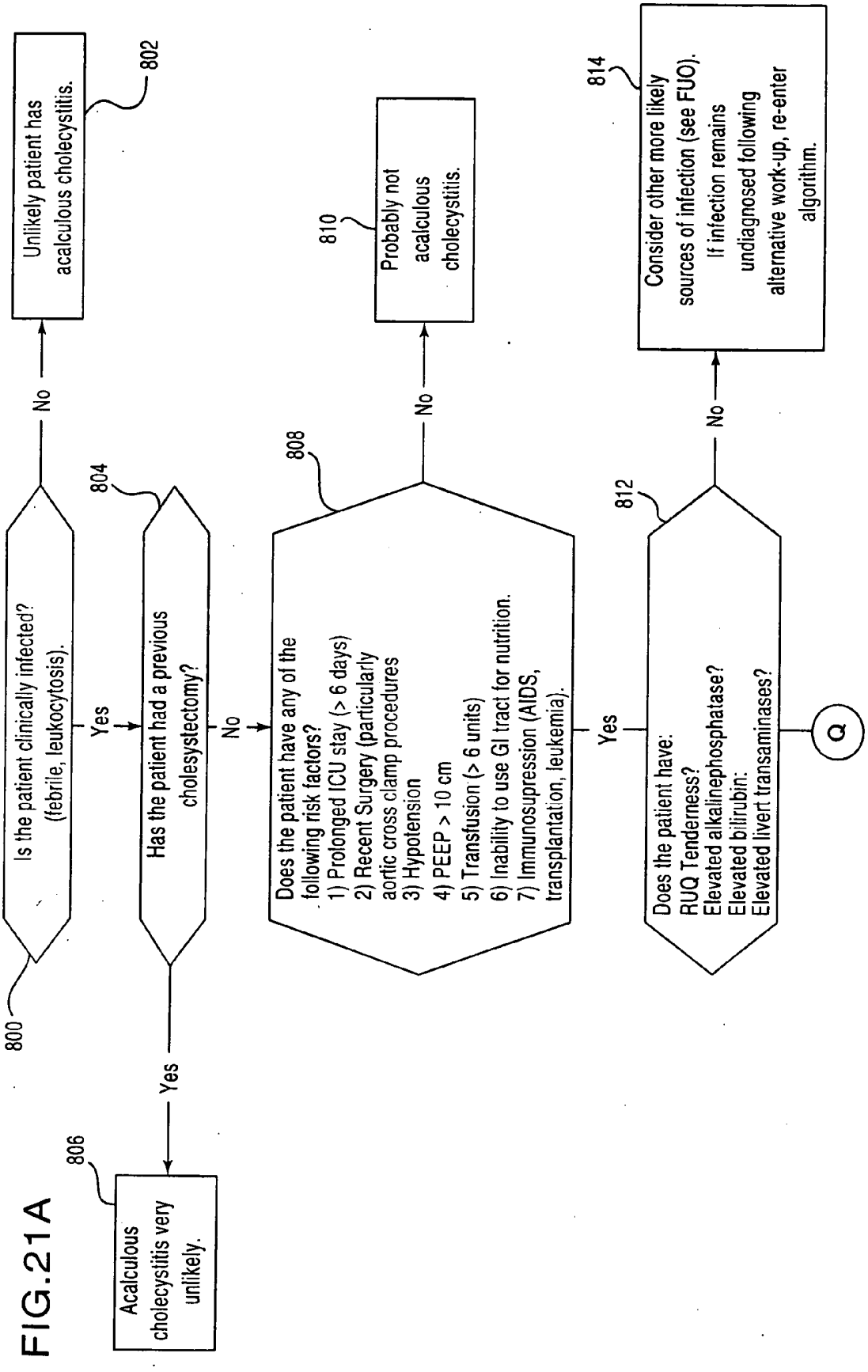

800
Is the patient clinically infected? (febrile, leukocytosis).
No
802
Unlikely patient has acalculous cholecystitis.
Yes
804
Has the patient had a previous cholesystectomy?
Yes
806
Acalculous cholecysitis very unlikely.
No
808
Does the patient have any of the following risk factors?
1) Prolonged ICU stay (> 6 days)
2) Recent Surgery (particularly aortic cross clamp procedures
3) Hypotension
4) PEEP > 10 cm
5) Transfusion (> 6 units)
6) Inability to use GI tract for nutrition.
7) Immunosupression (AIDS, transplantation, leukemia).
No
810
Probably not acalculous cholecystitis.
Yes
812
Does the patient have:
RUQ Tenderness?
Elevated alkalinephosphatase?
Elevated bilirubin:
Elevated livert transaminases?
No
814
Consider other more likely sources of infection (see FUO).
If infection remains undiagnosed following alternative work-up, re-enter algorithm.
Q

FIG.21A

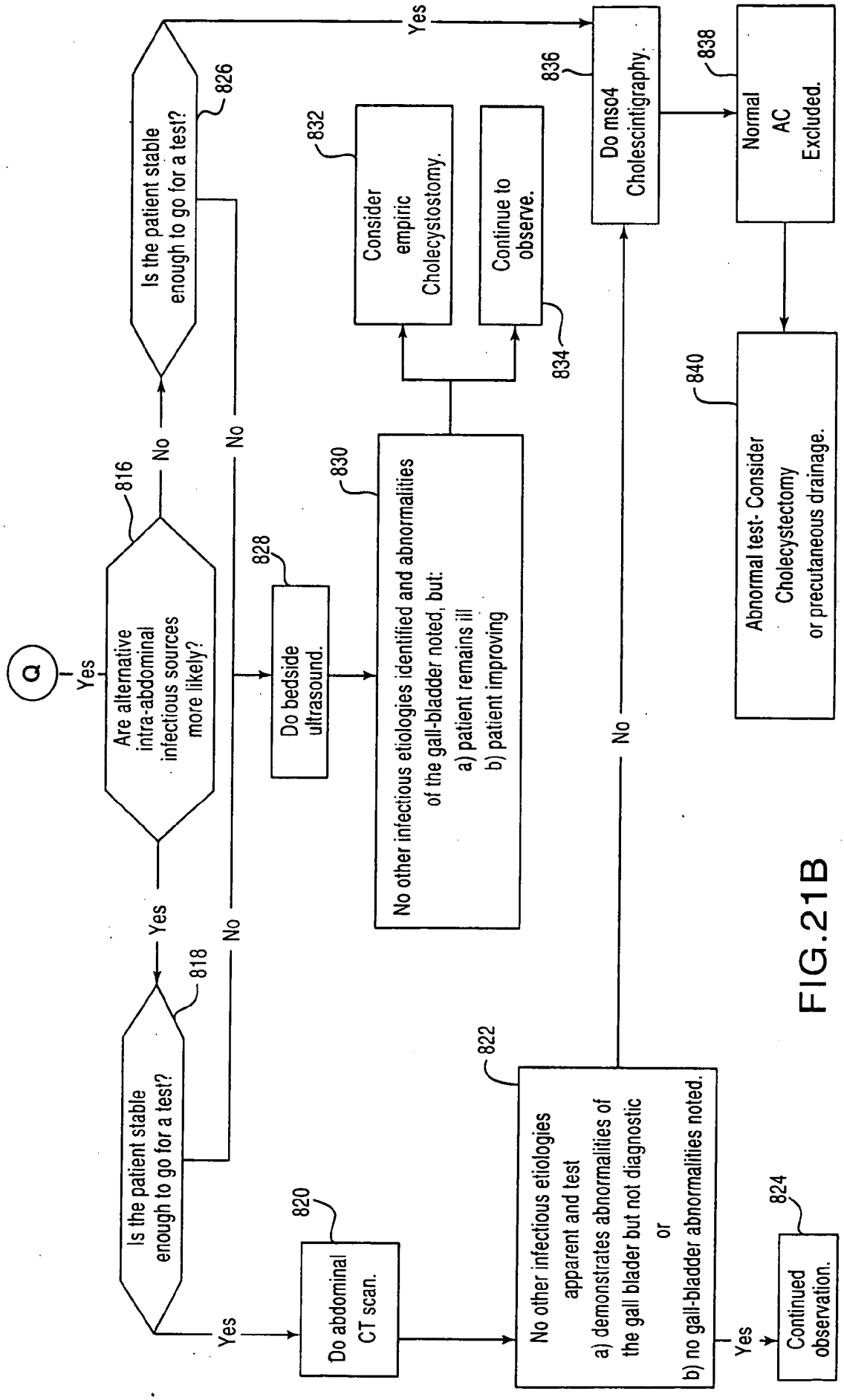

Q
Yes
Are alternative intra-abdominal infectious sources more likely?
816
No
Yes
Is the patient stable enough to go for a test?
826
Yes
No
Is the patient stable enough to go for a test?
818
Yes
No
Do abdominal CT scan.
820
Do bedside ultrasound.
828
No other infectious etiologies identified and abnormalities of the gall-bladder noted, but:
a) patient remains ill
b) patient improving
830
Consider empiric Cholecystostomy.
832
Continue to observe.
834
No other infectious etiologies apparent and test
a) demonstrates abnormalities of the gall blader but not diagnostic
or
b) no gall-bladder abnormalities noted.
822
Yes
Continued observation.
824
No
Do ms04 Cholescintigraphy.
836
Yes
Normal AC Excluded.
838
Abnormal test- Consider Cholecystectomy or precutaneous drainage.
840

FIG.21B

FIG. 22

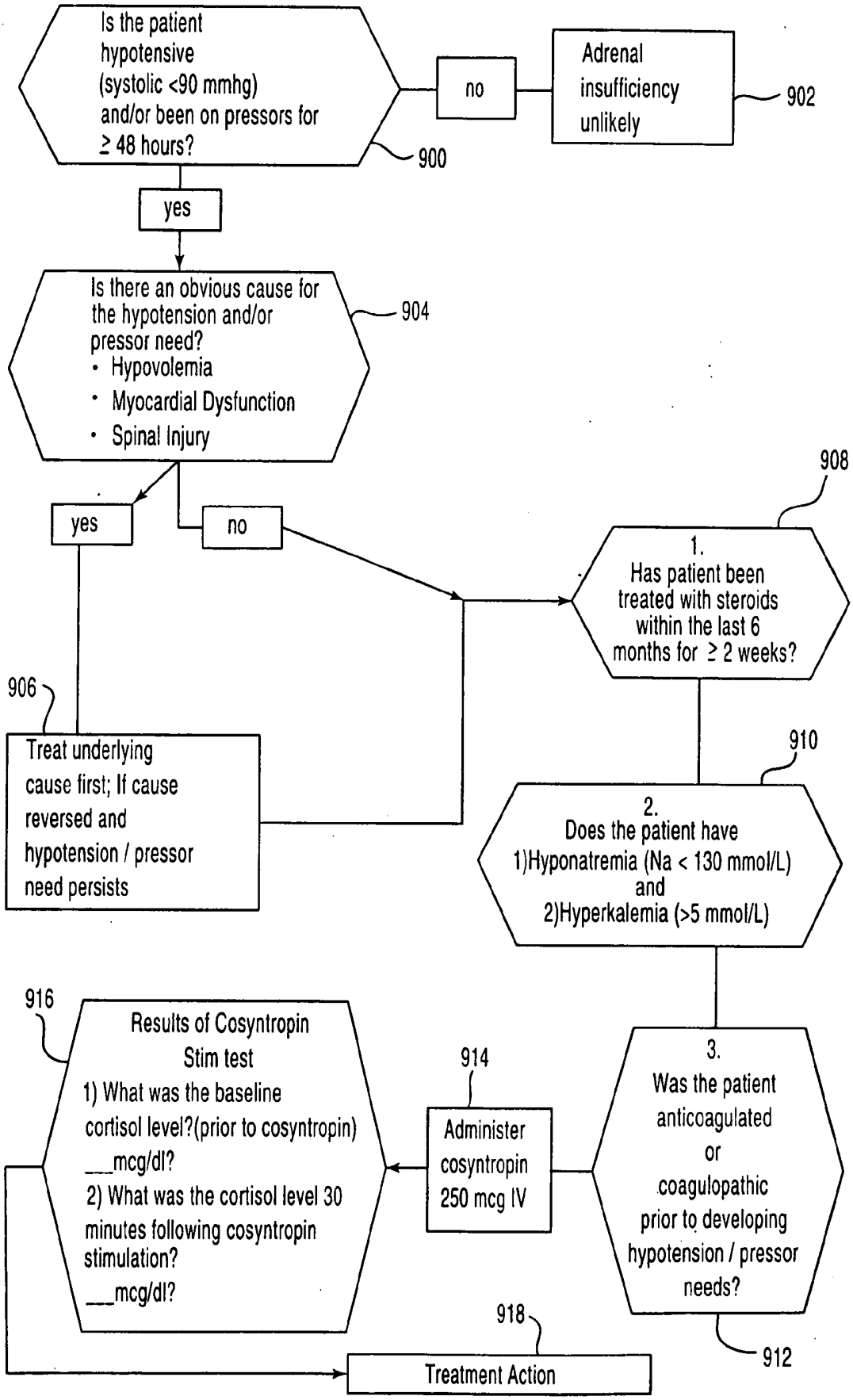

Is the patient hypotensive (systolic <90 mmhg) and/or been on pressors for ≥ 48 hours?
900
no
Adrenal insufficiency unlikely
902
yes
Is there an obvious cause for the hypotension and/or pressor need?
• Hypovolemia
• Myocardial Dysfunction
• Spinal Injury
904
yes
no
906
Treat underlying cause first; If cause reversed and hypotension / pressor need persists
908
1. Has patient been treated with steroids within the last 6 months for ≥ 2 weeks?
910
2. Does the patient have 1)Hyponatremia (Na < 130 mmol/L) and 2)Hyperkalemia (>5 mmol/L)
3. Was the patient anticoagulated or coagulopathic prior to developing hypotension / pressor needs?
912
914
Administer cosyntropin 250 mcg IV
916
Results of Cosyntropin Stim test
1) What was the baseline cortisol level?(prior to cosyntropin) ___mcg/dl?
2) What was the cortisol level 30 minutes following cosyntropin stimulation? ___mcg/dl?
918
Treatment Action

FIG. 23

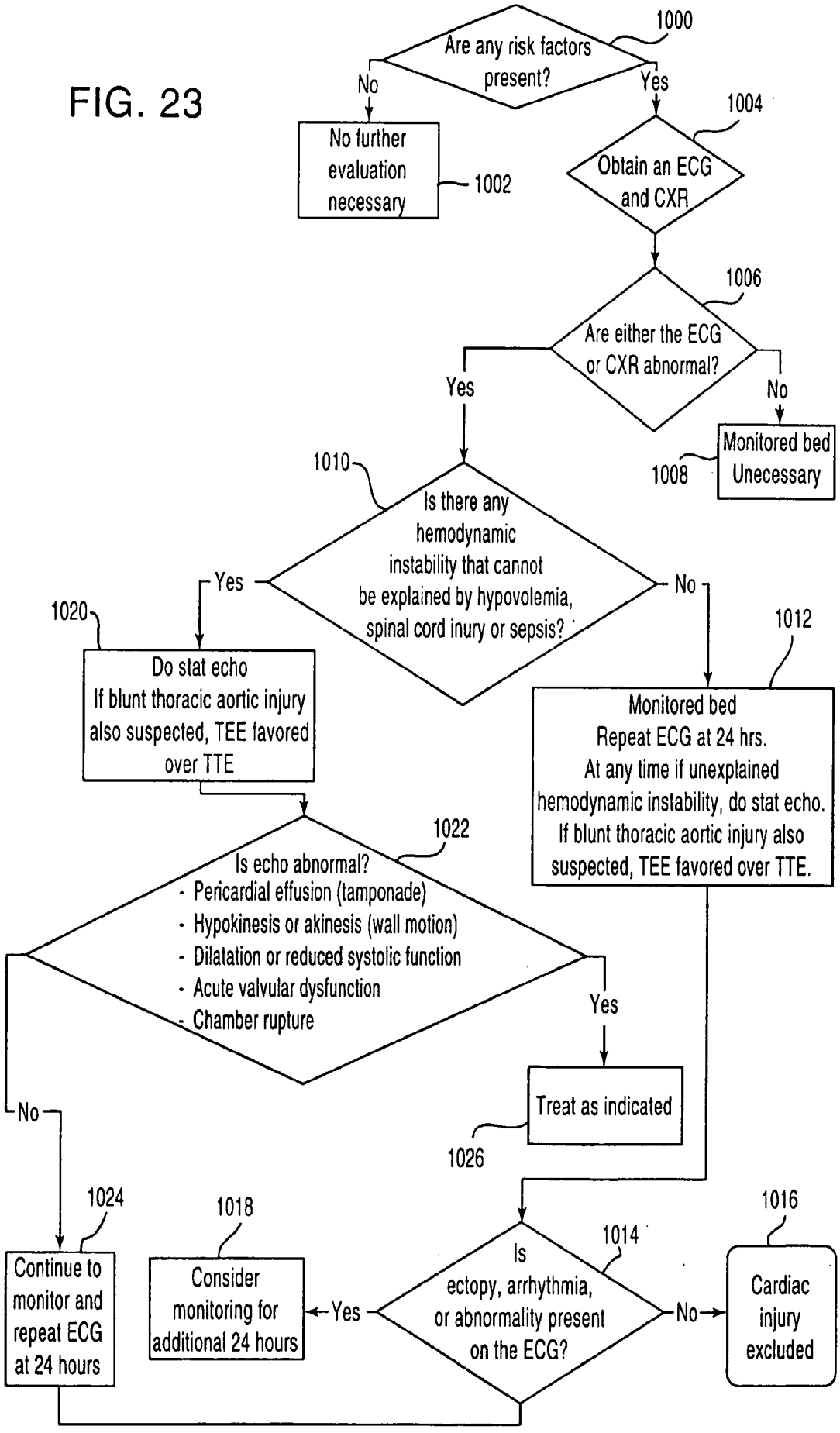

1000
Are any risk factors present?
No
Yes
No further evaluation necessary
1002
1004
Obtain an ECG and CXR
1006
Are either the ECG or CXR abnormal?
Yes
No
1008
Monitored bed Unecessary
1010
Is there any hemodynamic instability that cannot be explained by hypovolemia, spinal cord inury or sepsis?
Yes
No
1020
Do stat echo
If blunt thoracic aortic injury also suspected, TEE favored over TTE
1012
Monitored bed
Repeat ECG at 24 hrs.
At any time if unexplained hemodynamic instability, do stat echo.
If blunt thoracic aortic injury also suspected, TEE favored over TTE.
1022
Is echo abnormal?
- Pericardial effusion (tamponade)
- Hypokinesis or akinesis (wall motion)
- Dilatation or reduced systolic function
- Acute valvular dysfunction
- Chamber rupture
Yes
No
Treat as indicated
1026
1024
Continue to monitor and repeat ECG at 24 hours
1018
Consider monitoring for additional 24 hours
Yes
1014
Is ectopy, arrhythmia, or abnormality present on the ECG?
No
1016
Cardiac injury excluded

FIG. 24A

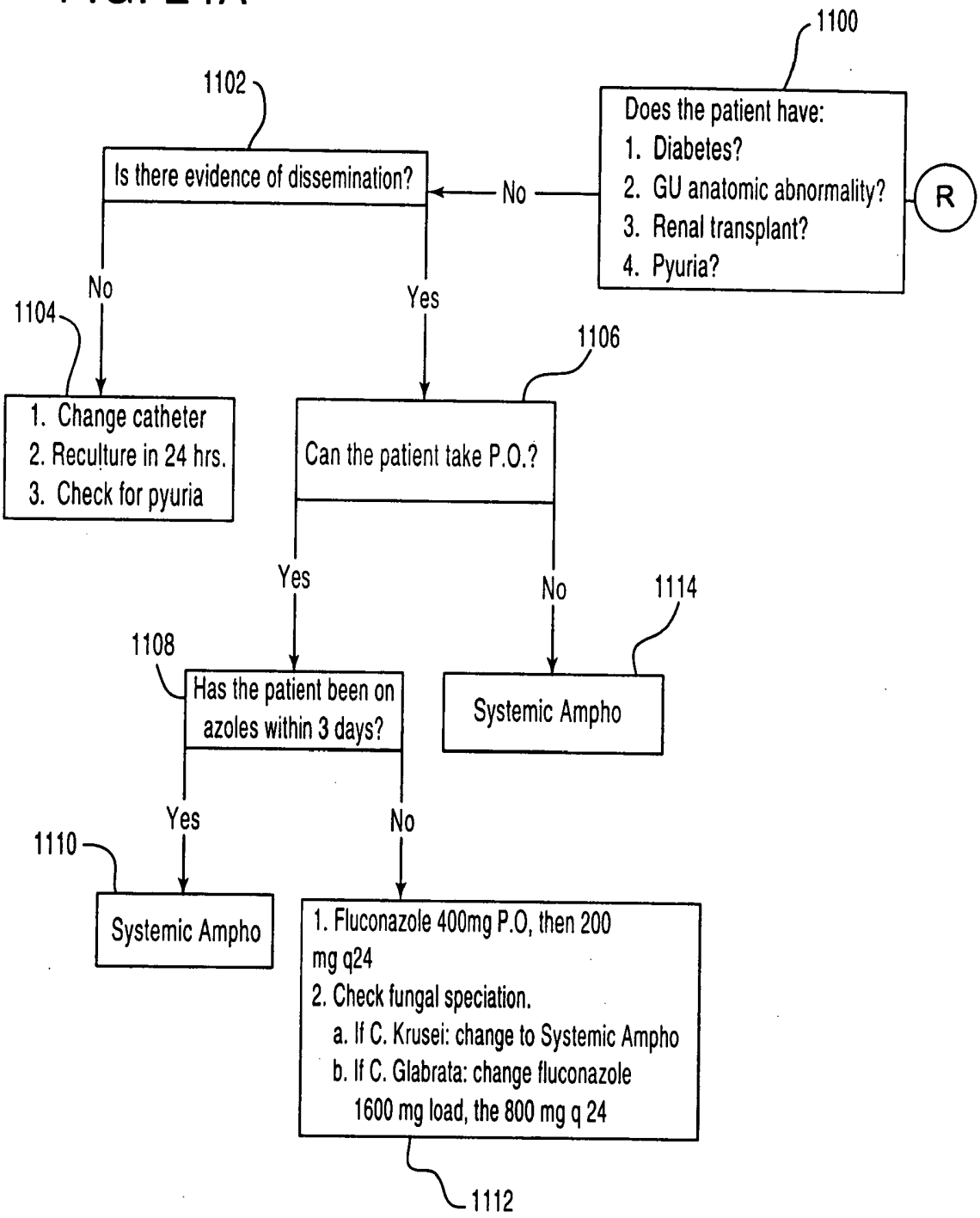
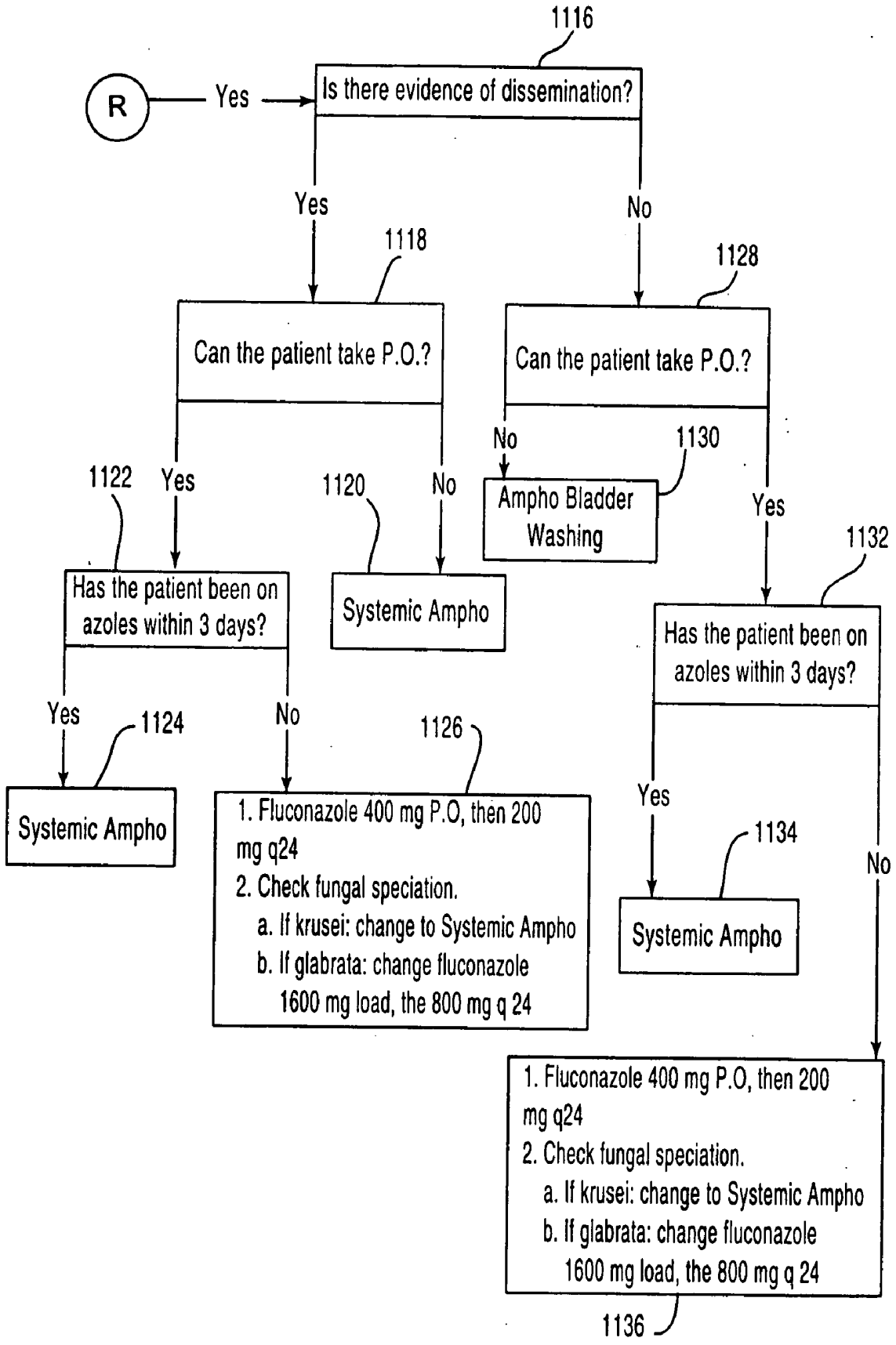

1100
Does the patient have:
1. Diabetes?
2. GU anatomic abnormality?
3. Renal transplant?
4. Pyuria?
R
1102
Is there evidence of dissemination?
No
No
Yes
1104
1. Change catheter
2. Reculture in 24 hrs.
3. Check for pyuria
1106
Can the patient take P.O.?
Yes
No
1114
Systemic Ampho
1108
Has the patient been on azoles within 3 days?
Yes
No
1110
Systemic Ampho
1. Fluconazole 400mg P.O, then 200 mg q24
2. Check fungal speciation.
a. If C. Krusei: change to Systemic Ampho
b. If C. Glabrata: change fluconazole 1600 mg load, the 800 mg q 24
1112

FIG. 24B


1116
R
Yes
Is there evidence of dissemination?
Yes
No
1118
1128
Can the patient take P.O.?
Can the patient take P.O.?
No
1130
Ampho Bladder Washing
1122
Yes
1120
No
Yes
1132
Has the patient been on azoles within 3 days?
Systemic Ampho
Has the patient been on azoles within 3 days?
Yes
1124
No
1126
Yes
1134
No
Systemic Ampho
1. Fluconazole 400 mg P.O, then 200 mg q24
2. Check fungal speciation.
a. If krusei: change to Systemic Ampho
b. If glabrata: change fluconazole 1600 mg load, the 800 mg q 24
Systemic Ampho
1. Fluconazole 400 mg P.O, then 200 mg q24
2. Check fungal speciation.
a. If krusei: change to Systemic Ampho
b. If glabrata: change fluconazole 1600 mg load, the 800 mg q 24
1136

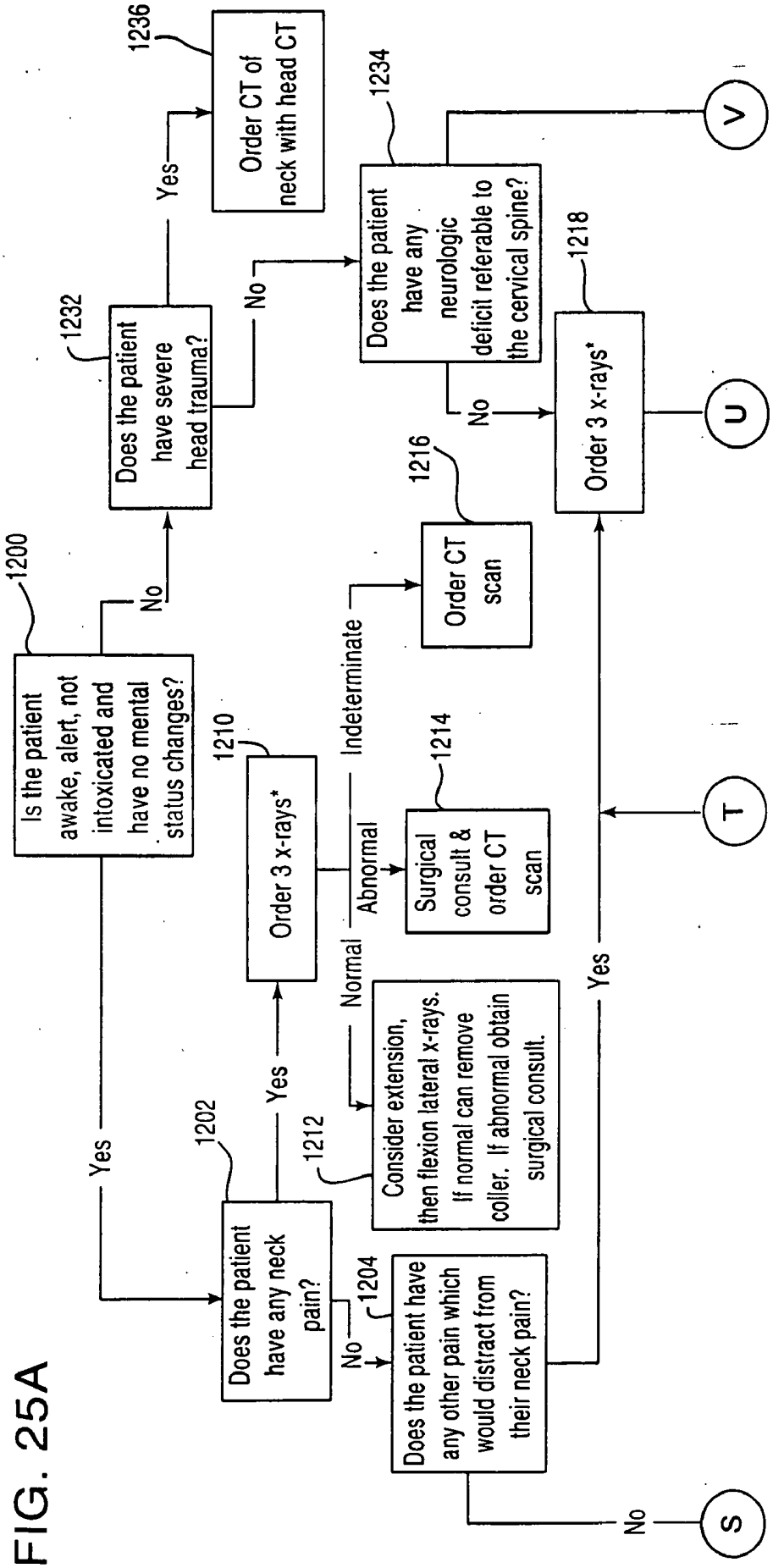

1200
Is the patient awake, alert, not intoxicated and have no mental status changes?
Yes
No
1202
Does the patient have any neck pain?
Yes
No
1204
Does the patient have any other pain which would distract from their neck pain?
No
S
1210
Order 3 x-rays*
Normal
Abnormal
Indeterminate
1212
Consider extension, then flexion lateral x-rays. If normal can remove collar. If abnormal obtain surgical consult.
1214
Surgical consult & order CT scan
1216
Order CT scan
T
1218
Order 3 x-rays*
Yes
U
1232
Does the patient have severe head trauma?
Yes
No
1234
Does the patient have any neurologic deficit referable to the cervical spine?
No
Yes
V
1236
Order CT of neck with head CT

FIG. 25A

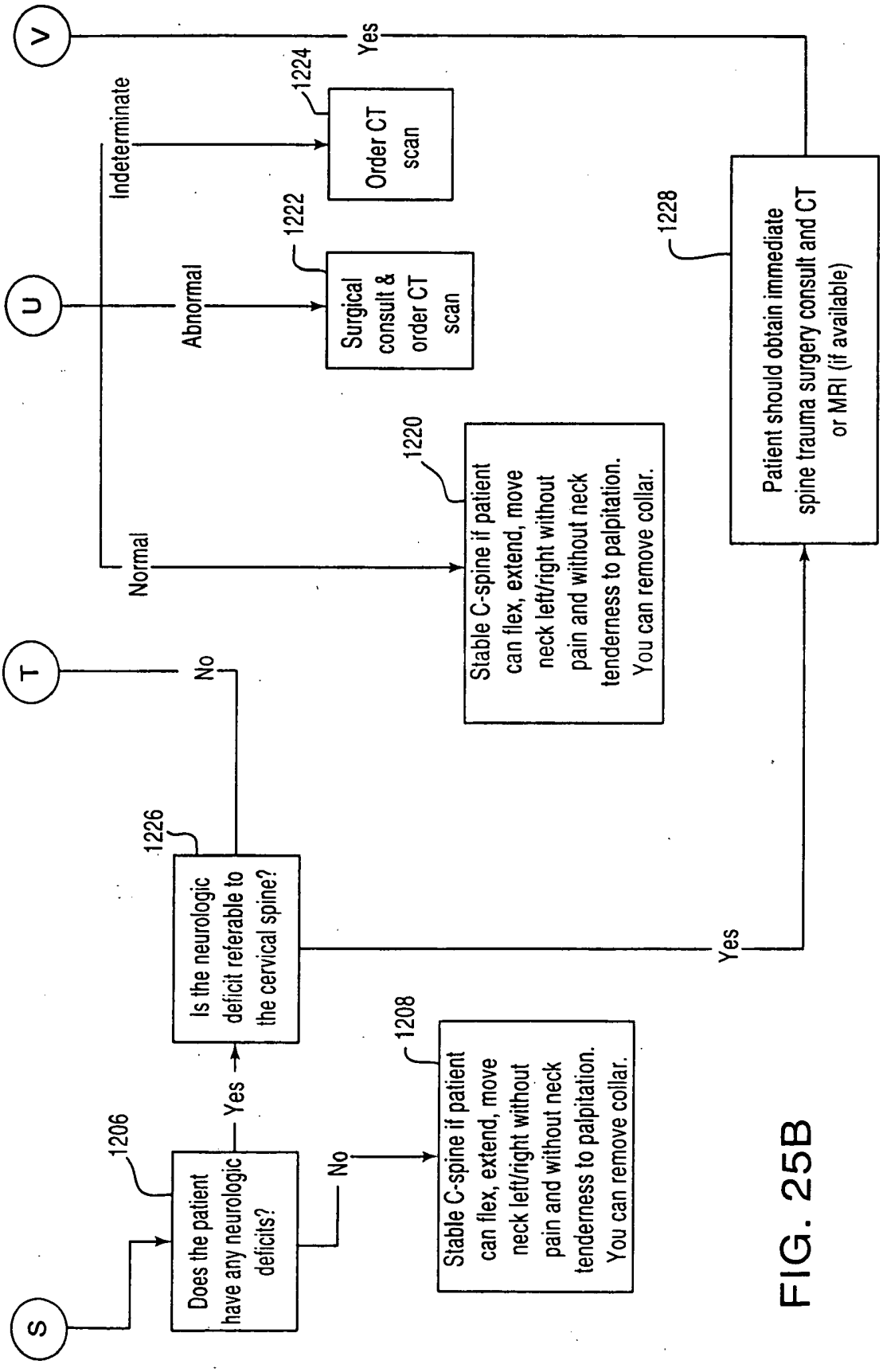

S
Does the patient have any neurologic deficits?
1206
Yes
No
Is the neurologic deficit referable to the cervical spine?
1226
Yes
No
Stable C-spine if patient can flex, extend, move neck left/right without pain and without neck tenderness to palpitation. You can remove collar.
1208
T
Normal
Stable C-spine if patient can flex, extend, move neck left/right without pain and without neck tenderness to palpitation. You can remove collar.
1220
U
Abnormal
Surgical consult & order CT scan
1222
Indeterminate
Order CT scan
1224
V
Yes
Patient should obtain immediate spine trauma surgery consult and CT or MRI (if available)
1228

FIG. 25B

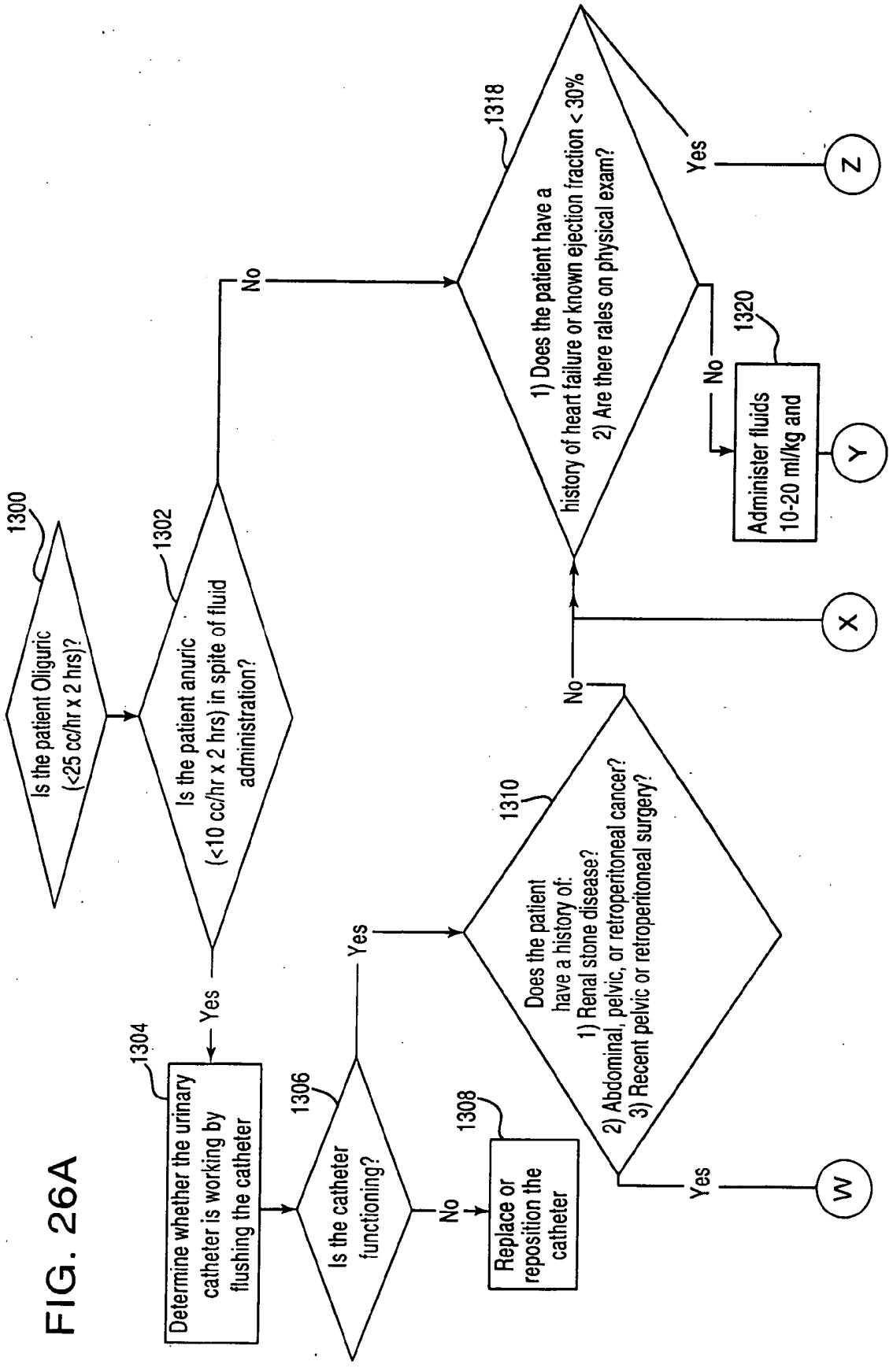

1300
Is the patient Oliguric (<25 cc/hr x 2 hrs)?
1302
Is the patient anuric (<10 cc/hr x 2 hrs) in spite of fluid administration?
No
Yes
1304
Determine whether the urinary catheter is working by flushing the catheter
1306
Is the catheter functioning?
No
1308
Replace or reposition the catheter
Yes
1310
Does the patient have a history of:
1) Renal stone disease?
2) Abdominal, pelvic, or retroperitoneal cancer?
3) Recent pelvic or retroperitoneal surgery?
Yes
W
No
X
1318
1) Does the patient have a history of heart failure or known ejection fraction < 30%
2) Are there rales on physical exam?
Yes
Z
No
1320
Administer fluids 10-20 ml/kg and
Y

FIG. 26A

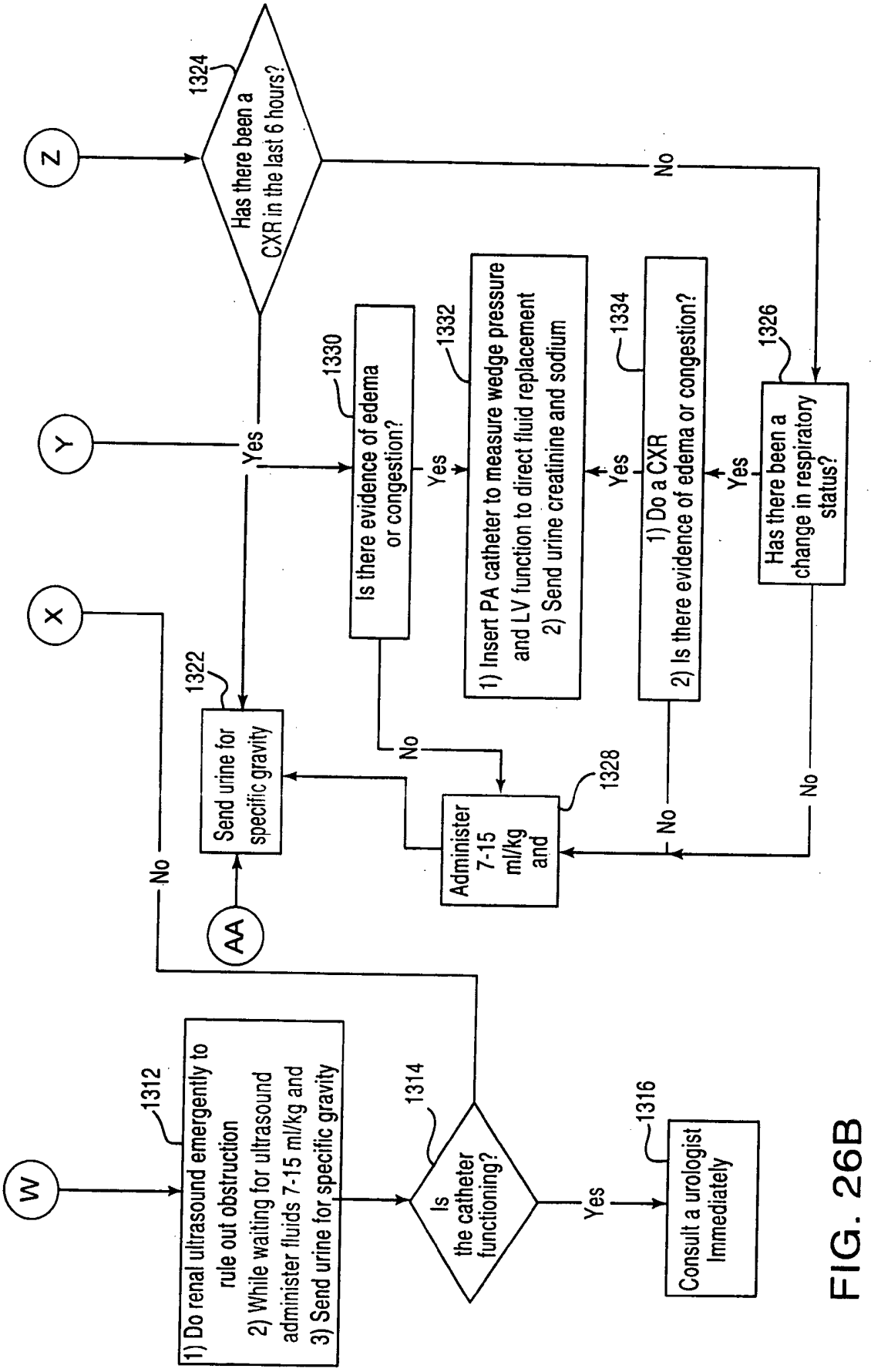

W
1312
1) Do renal ultrasound emergently to rule out obstruction
2) While waiting for ultrasound administer fluids 7-15 ml/kg and
3) Send urine for specific gravity
1314
Is the catheter functioning?
Yes
1316
Consult a urologist Immediately
No
X
AA
1322
Send urine for specific gravity
Y
Yes
Z
1324
Has there been a CXR in the last 6 hours?
No
1326
Has there been a change in respiratory status?
Yes
1334
1) Do a CXR
2) Is there evidence of edema or congestion?
Yes
1332
1) Insert PA catheter to measure wedge pressure and LV function to direct fluid replacement
2) Send urine creatinine and sodium
Yes
1330
Is there evidence of edema or congestion?
Yes
No
1328
Administer 7-15 ml/kg and
No
No

FIG. 26B

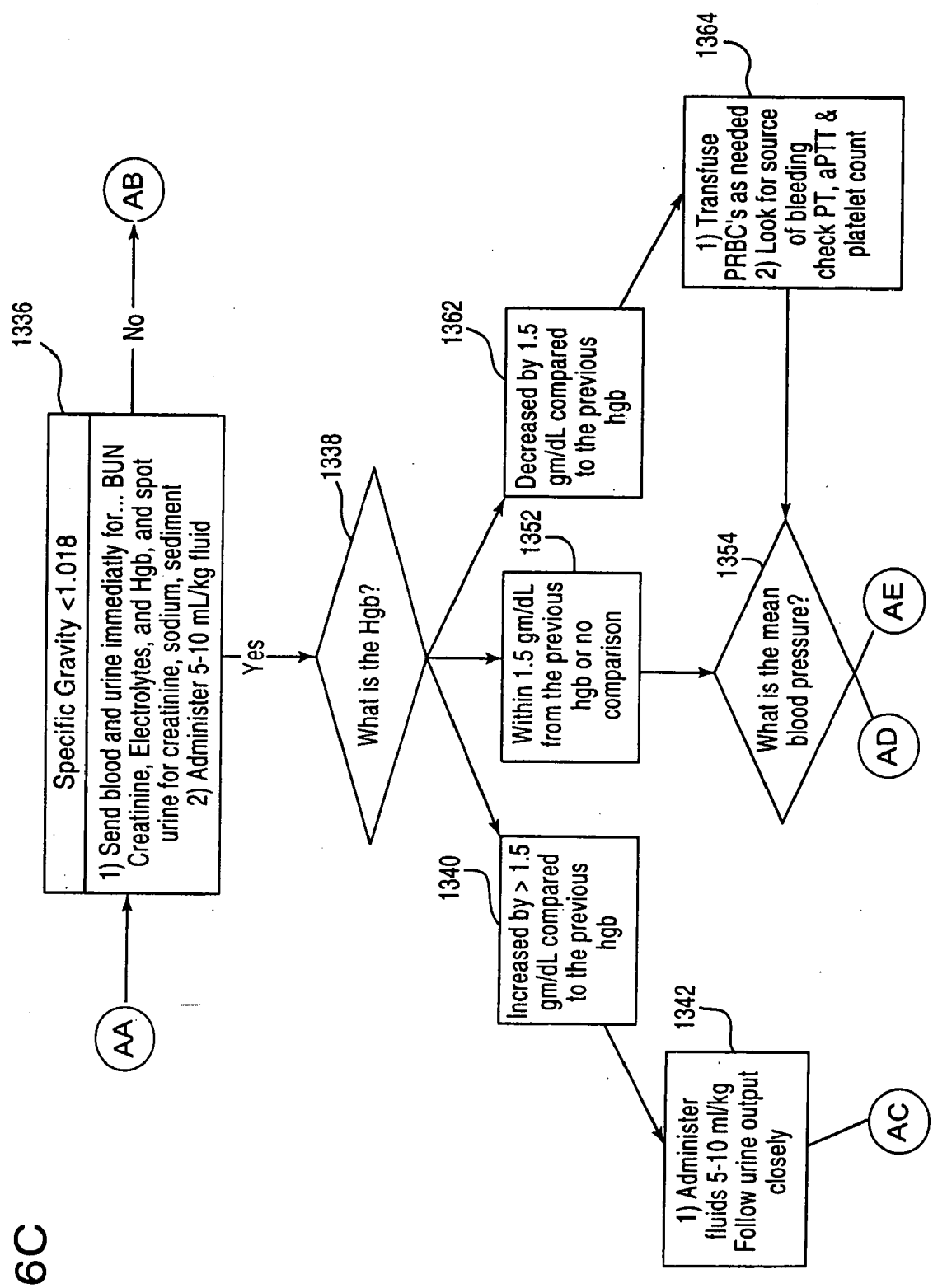

AA
1336
Specific Gravity <1.018
1) Send blood and urine immediatly for... BUN Creatinine, Electrolytes, and Hgb, and spot urine for creatinine, sodium, sediment
2) Administer 5-10 mL/kg fluid
No
AB
Yes
1338
What is the Hgb?
1340
Increased by > 1.5 gm/dL compared to the previous hgb
1342
1) Administer fluids 5-10 ml/kg
Follow urine output closely
AC
1352
Within 1.5 gm/dL from the previous hgb or no comparison
1354
What is the mean blood pressure?
AD
AE
1362
Decreased by 1.5 gm/dL compared to the previous hgb
1364
1) Transfuse PRBC's as needed
2) Look for source of bleeding
check PT, aPTT & platelet count

FIG. 26C

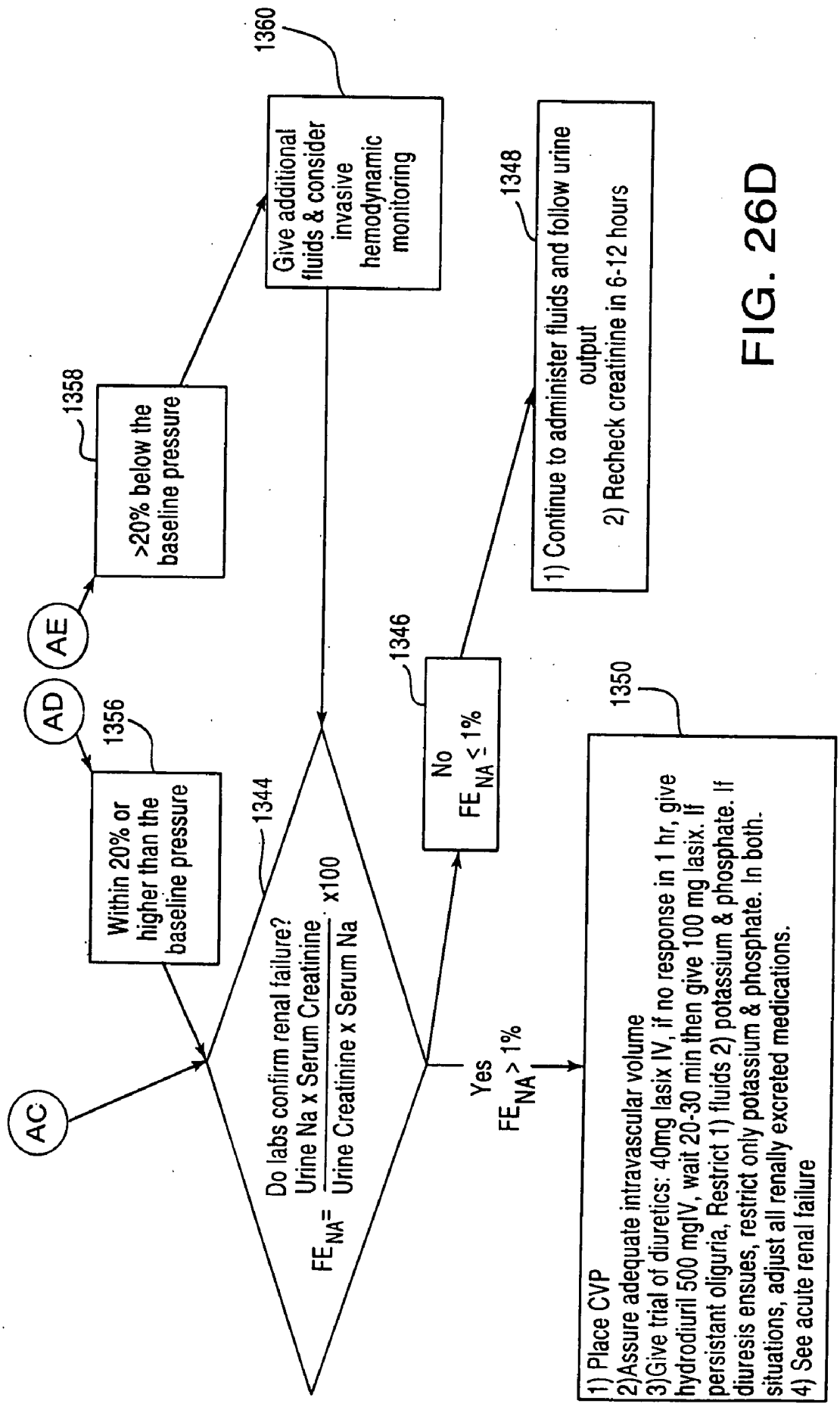
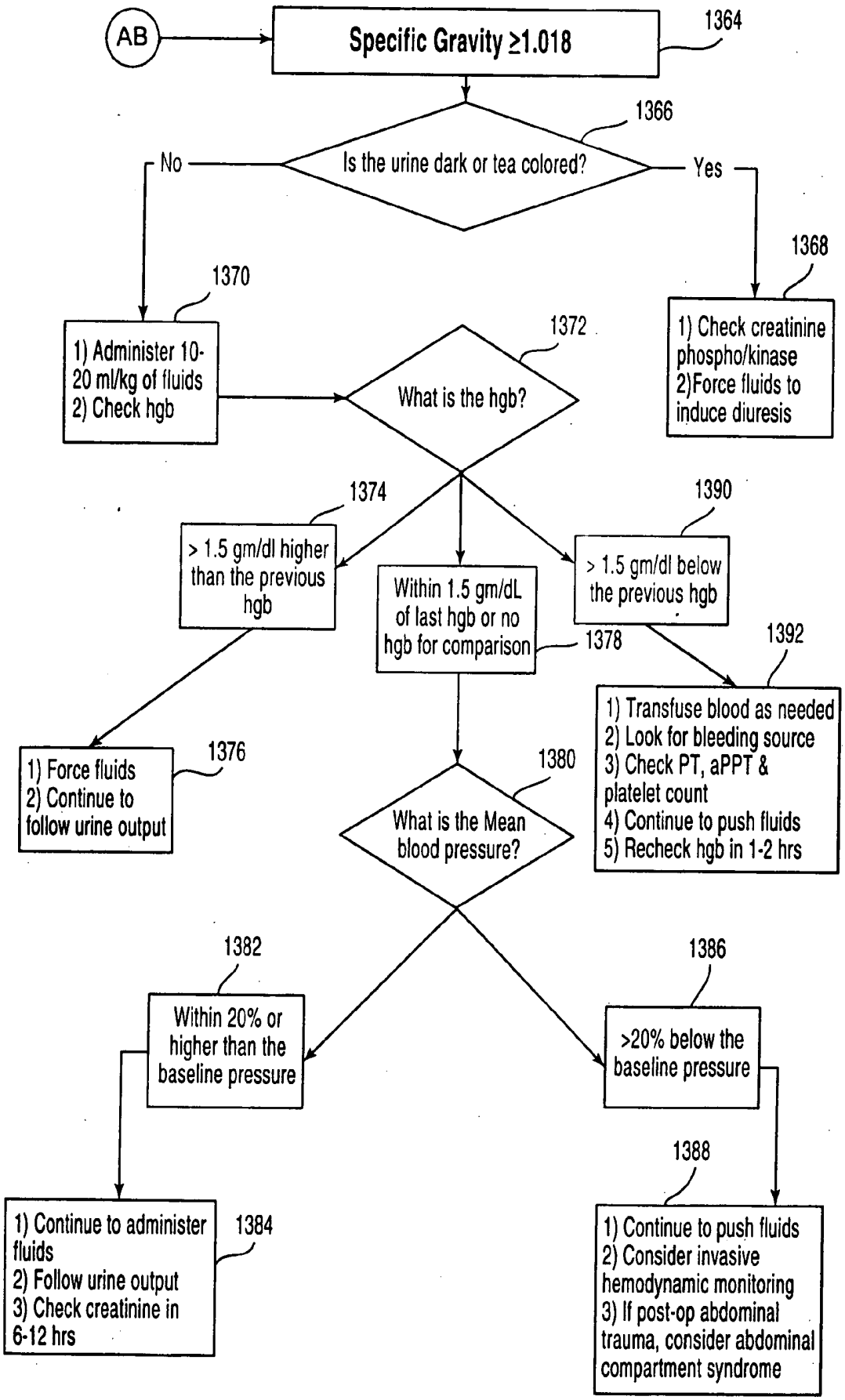

AC
AD
AE
1356
Within 20% or higher than the baseline pressure
1358
>20% below the baseline pressure
1344
Do labs confirm renal failure?
FE_{NA}= Urine Na x Serum Creatinine / Urine Creatinine x Serum Na x100
1346
No $FE_{NA} \leq 1\%$
Yes $FE_{NA} > 1\%$
1348
1) Continue to administer fluids and follow urine output
2) Recheck creatinine in 6-12 hours
1350
1) Place CVP
2)Assure adequate intravascular volume
3)Give trial of diuretics: 40mg lasix IV, if no response in 1 hr, give hydrodiuril 500 mgIV, wait 20-30 min then give 100 mg lasix. If persistant oliguria, Restrict 1) fluids 2) potassium & phosphate. If diuresis ensues, restrict only potassium & phosphate. In both situations, adjust all renally excreted medications.
4) See acute renal failure
1360
Give additional fluids & consider invasive hemodynamic monitoring

FIG. 26D

FIG. 26E


AB
Specific Gravity ≥1.018
1364
1366
Is the urine dark or tea colored?
No
Yes
1368
1370
1) Administer 10-20 ml/kg of fluids
2) Check hgb
1372
What is the hgb?
1) Check creatinine phospho/kinase
2)Force fluids to induce diuresis
1374
1390
> 1.5 gm/dl higher than the previous hgb
Within 1.5 gm/dL of last hgb or no hgb for comparison
1378
> 1.5 gm/dl below the previous hgb
1392
1) Transfuse blood as needed
2) Look for bleeding source
3) Check PT, aPPT & platelet count
4) Continue to push fluids
5) Recheck hgb in 1-2 hrs
1376
1) Force fluids
2) Continue to follow urine output
1380
What is the Mean blood pressure?
1382
1386
Within 20% or higher than the baseline pressure
>20% below the baseline pressure
1388
1) Continue to administer fluids
2) Follow urine output
3) Check creatinine in 6-12 hrs
1384
1) Continue to push fluids
2) Consider invasive hemodynamic monitoring
3) If post-op abdominal trauma, consider abdominal compartment syndrome

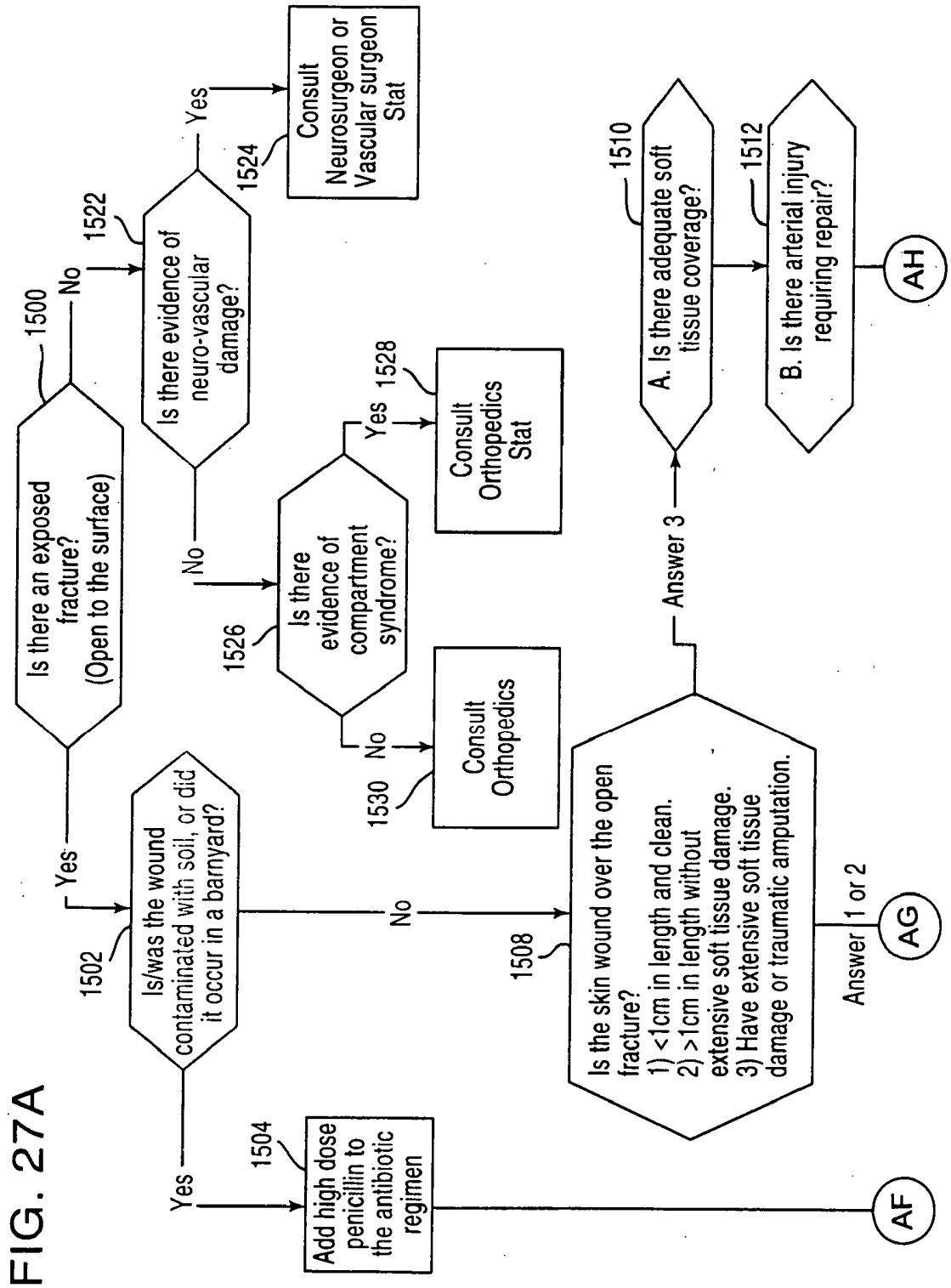

Is there an exposed fracture? (Open to the surface)
1500
Yes
No
Is/was the wound contaminated with soil, or did it occur in a barnyard?
1502
Yes
No
Add high dose penicillin to the antibiotic regimen
1504
AF
Is there evidence of neuro-vascular damage?
1522
Yes
No
Consult Neurosurgeon or Vascular surgeon Stat
1524
Is there evidence of compartment syndrome?
1526
Yes
No
Consult Orthopedics Stat
1528
Consult Orthopedics
1530
Is the skin wound over the open fracture?
1) <1cm in length and clean.
2) >1cm in length without extensive soft tissue damage.
3) Have extensive soft tissue damage or traumatic amputation.
1508
Answer 1 or 2
AG
Answer 3
A. Is there adequate soft tissue coverage?
1510
B. Is there arterial injury requiring repair?
1512
AH

FIG. 27A

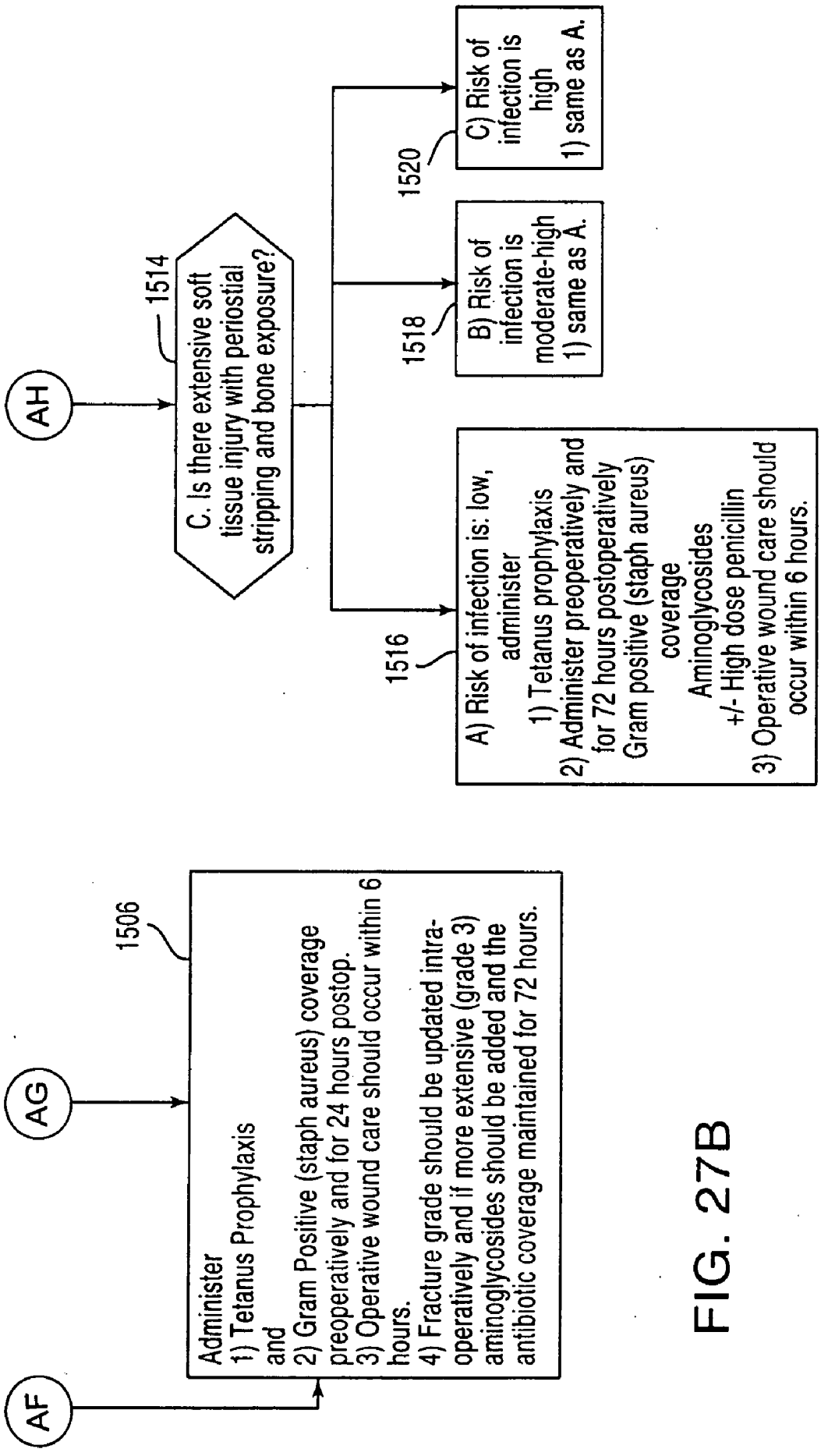

AF
AG
AH
1506
Administer
1) Tetanus Prophylaxis
and
2) Gram Positive (staph aureus) coverage preoperatively and for 24 hours postop.
3) Operative wound care should occur within 6 hours.
4) Fracture grade should be updated intra-operatively and if more extensive (grade 3) aminoglycosides should be added and the antibiotic coverage maintained for 72 hours.
1514
C. Is there extensive soft tissue injury with periostial stripping and bone exposure?
1516
A) Risk of infection is: low, administer
1) Tetanus prophylaxis
2) Administer preoperatively and for 72 hours postoperatively Gram positive (staph aureus) coverage
Aminoglycosides
+/- High dose penicillin
3) Operative wound care should occur within 6 hours.
1518
B) Risk of infection is moderate-high
1) same as A.
1520
C) Risk of infection is high
1) same as A.

FIG. 27B

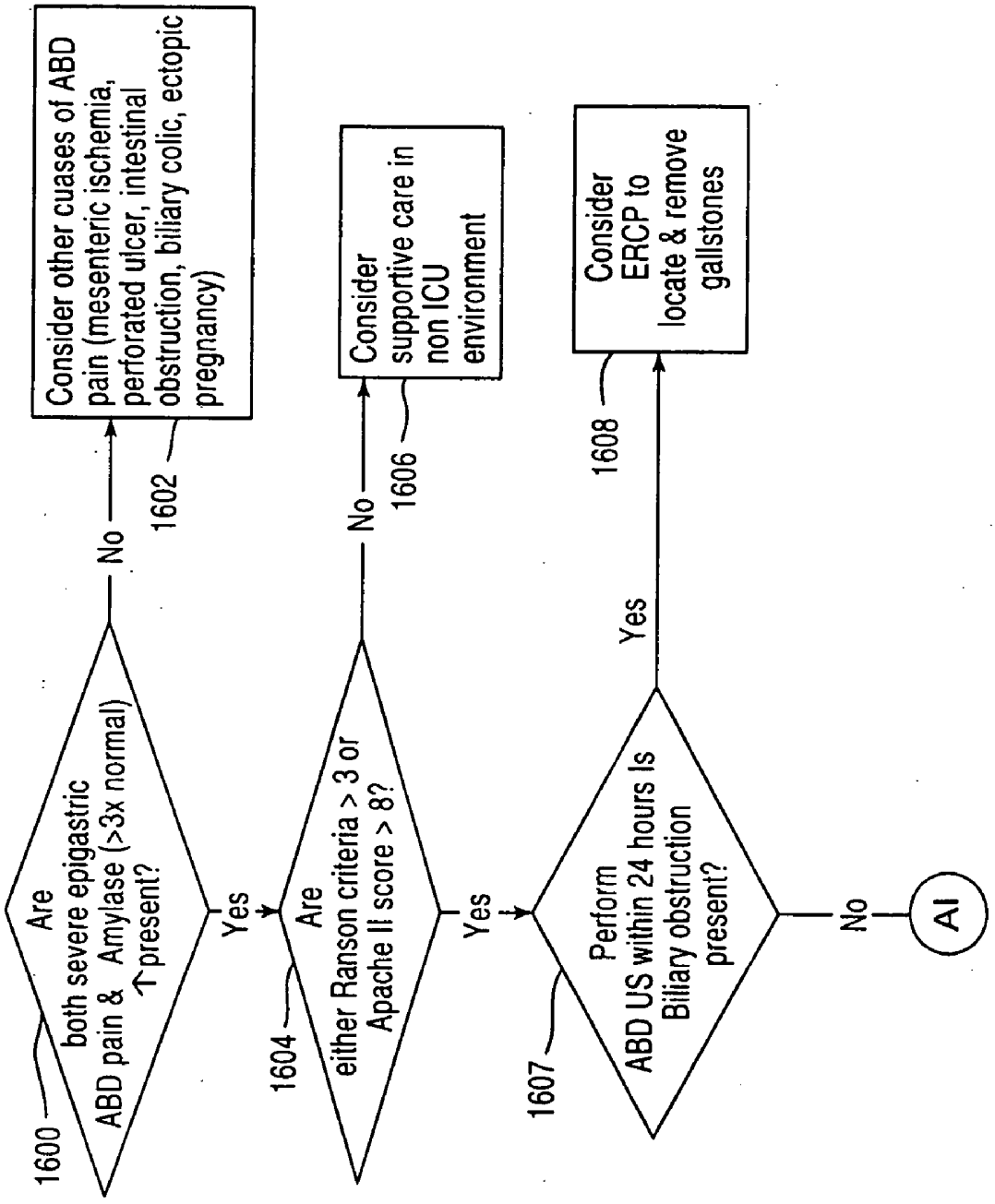

Are both severe epigastric ABD pain & Amylase (>3x normal) ↑present?
1600
Yes
No
Consider other cuases of ABD pain (mesenteric ischemia, perforated ulcer, intestinal obstruction, biliary colic, ectopic pregnancy)
1602
Are either Ranson criteria > 3 or Apache II score > 8?
1604
Yes
No
Consider supportive care in non ICU environment
1606
Perform ABD US within 24 hours Is Biliary obstruction present?
1607
Yes
No
Consider ERCP to locate & remove gallstones
1608
AI

FIG. 28A

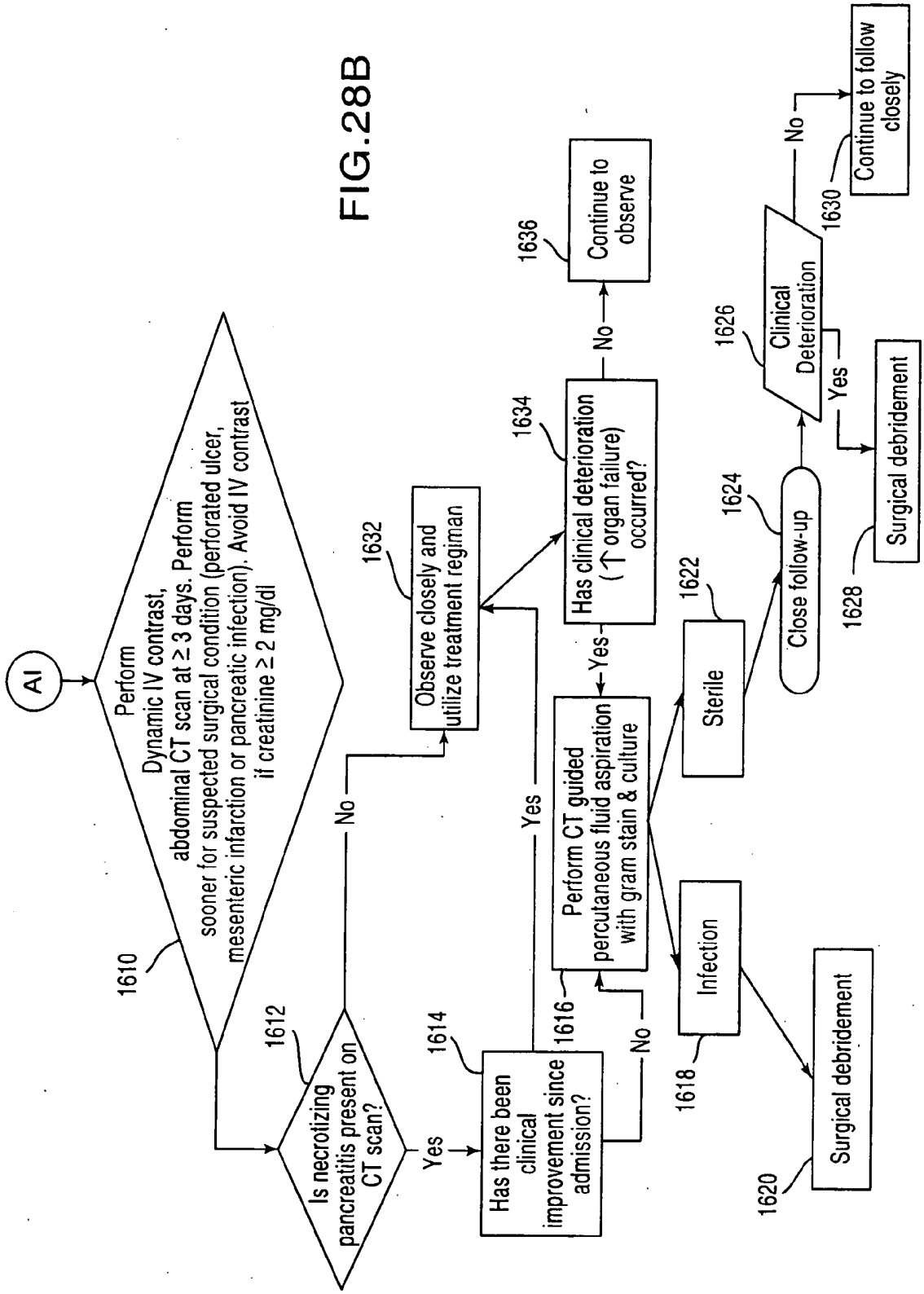

AI
Perform
Dynamic IV contrast,
abdominal CT scan at ≥ 3 days. Perform
sooner for suspected surgical condition (perforated ulcer,
mesenteric infarction or pancreatic infection). Avoid IV contrast
if creatinine ≥ 2 mg/dl
1610
Is necrotizing pancreatitis present on CT scan?
1612
No
Yes
Has there been clinical improvement since admission?
1614
No
Yes
Perform CT guided percutaneous fluid aspiration with gram stain & culture
1616
Yes
No
Observe closely and utilize treatment regiman
1632
Has clinical deterioration (↑ organ failure) occurred?
1634
No
Yes
Continue to observe
1636
Sterile
1622
Infection
1618
Surgical debridement
1620
Close follow-up
1624
Clinical Deterioration
1626
Yes
No
Surgical debridement
1628
Continue to follow closely
1630

FIG.28B

FIG. 29A

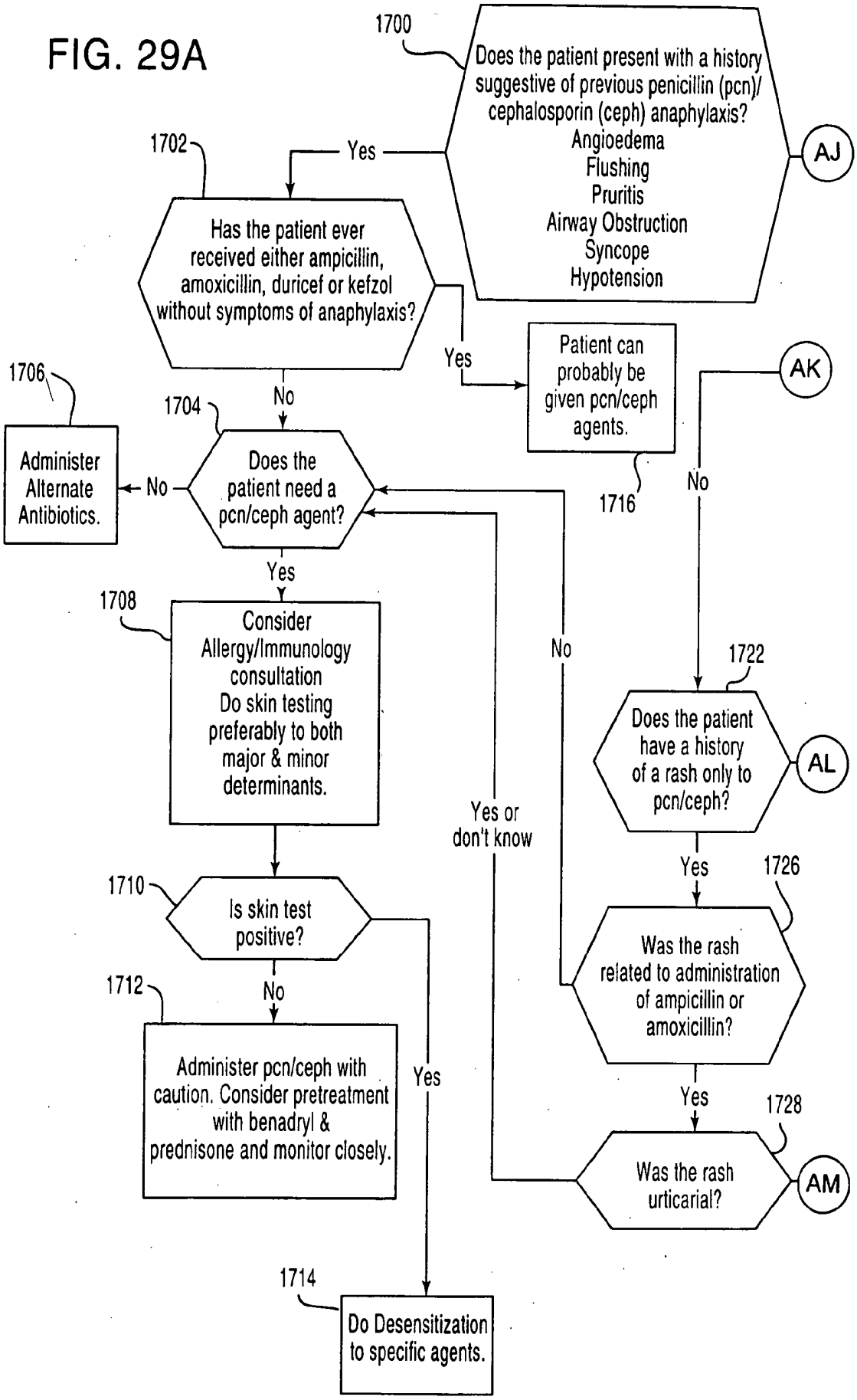

1700
Does the patient present with a history suggestive of previous penicillin (pcn)/ cephalosporin (ceph) anaphylaxis?
Angioedema
Flushing
Pruritis
Airway Obstruction
Syncope
Hypotension
AJ
Yes
1702
Has the patient ever received either ampicillin, amoxicillin, duricef or kefzol without symptoms of anaphylaxis?
Yes
Patient can probably be given pcn/ceph agents.
AK
1716
No
1706
Administer Alternate Antibiotics.
1704
No
Does the patient need a pcn/ceph agent?
Yes
1708
Consider Allergy/Immunology consultation
Do skin testing preferably to both major & minor determinants.
No
1722
Does the patient have a history of a rash only to pcn/ceph?
AL
Yes or don't know
Yes
1726
Was the rash related to administration of ampicillin or amoxicillin?
Yes
1728
Was the rash urticarial?
AM
1710
Is skin test positive?
1712
No
Administer pcn/ceph with caution. Consider pretreatment with benadryl & prednisone and monitor closely.
Yes
1714
Do Desensitization to specific agents.

FIG.29B

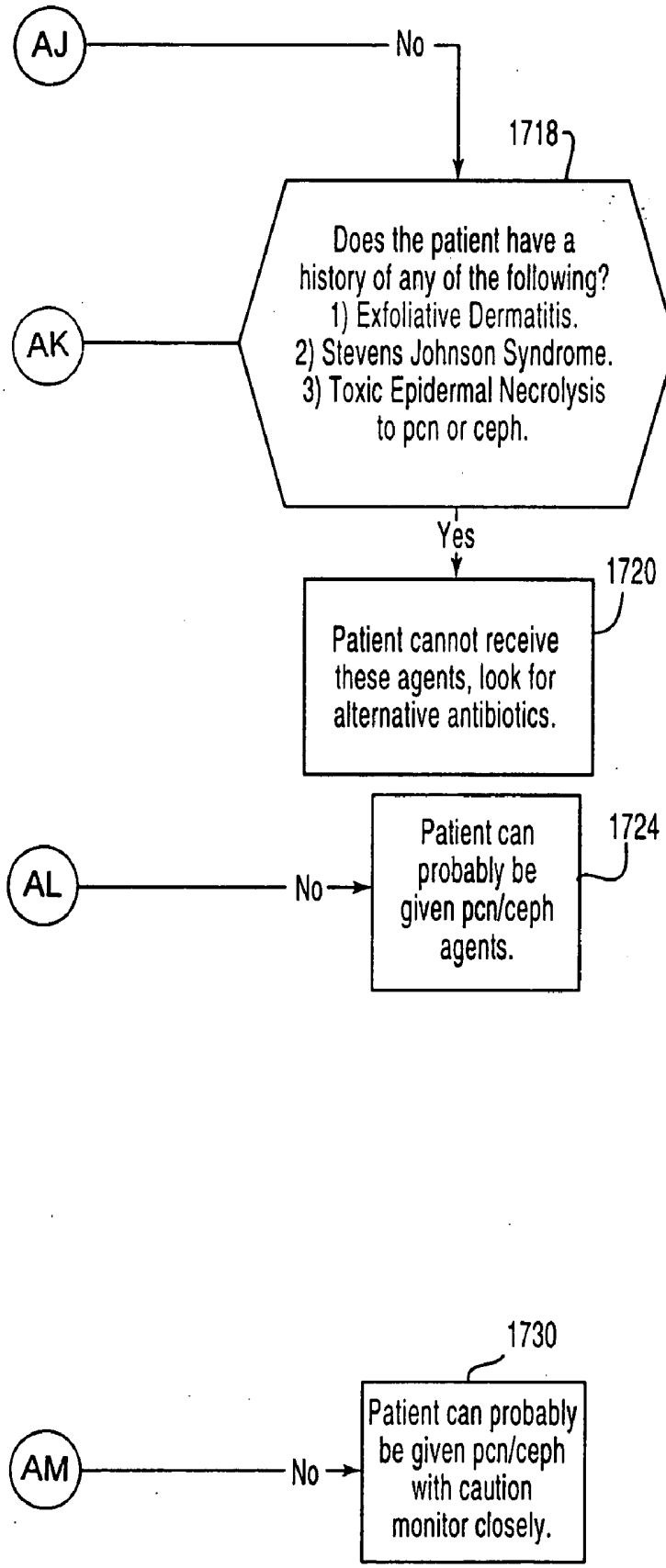
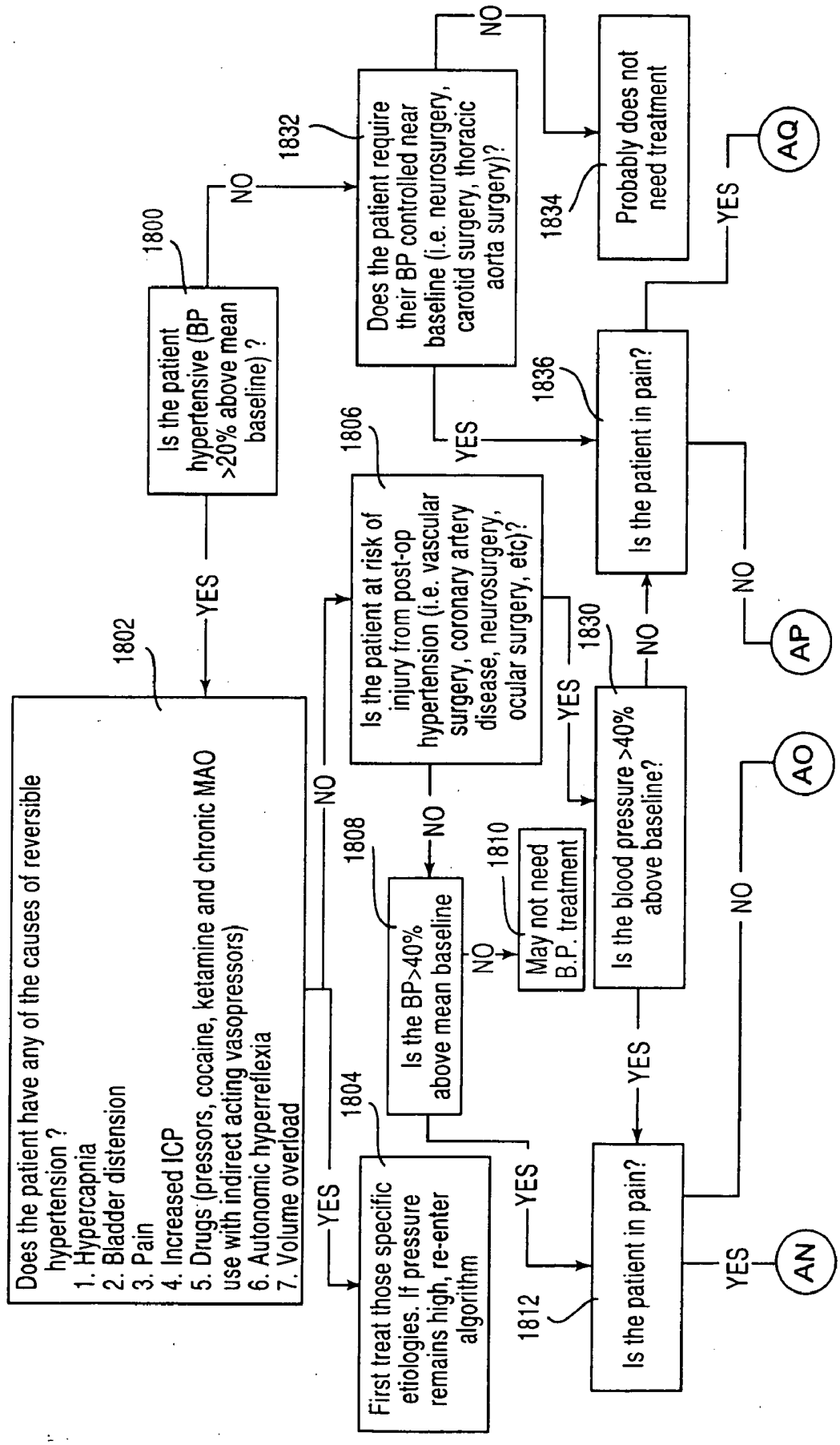

AJ
No
1718
Does the patient have a history of any of the following?
1) Exfoliative Dermatitis.
2) Stevens Johnson Syndrome.
3) Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis to pcn or ceph.
AK
Yes
1720
Patient cannot receive these agents, look for alternative antibiotics.
AL
No
Patient can probably be given pcn/ceph agents.
1724
1730
AM
No
Patient can probably be given pcn/ceph with caution monitor closely.

FIG. 30A


Does the patient have any of the causes of reversible hypertension ?
1. Hypercapnia
2. Bladder distension
3. Pain
4. Increased ICP
5. Drugs (pressors, cocaine, ketamine and chronic MAO use with indirect acting vasopressors)
6. Autonomic hyperreflexia
7. Volume overload
1802
YES
NO
Is the patient hypertensive (BP >20% above mean baseline) ?
1800
NO
Does the patient require their BP controlled near baseline (i.e. neurosurgery, carotid surgery, thoracic aorta surgery)?
1832
NO
Probably does not need treatment
1834
YES
AQ
Is the patient at risk of injury from post-op hypertension (i.e. vascular surgery, coronary artery disease, neurosurgery, ocular surgery, etc)?
1806
YES
Is the patient in pain?
1836
YES
NO
AP
NO
Is the BP>40% above mean baseline
1808
NO
May not need B.P. treatment
1810
YES
Is the blood pressure >40% above baseline?
1830
NO
YES
AO
NO
First treat those specific etiologies. If pressure remains high, re-enter algorithm
1804
YES
Is the patient in pain?
1812
YES
NO
AN

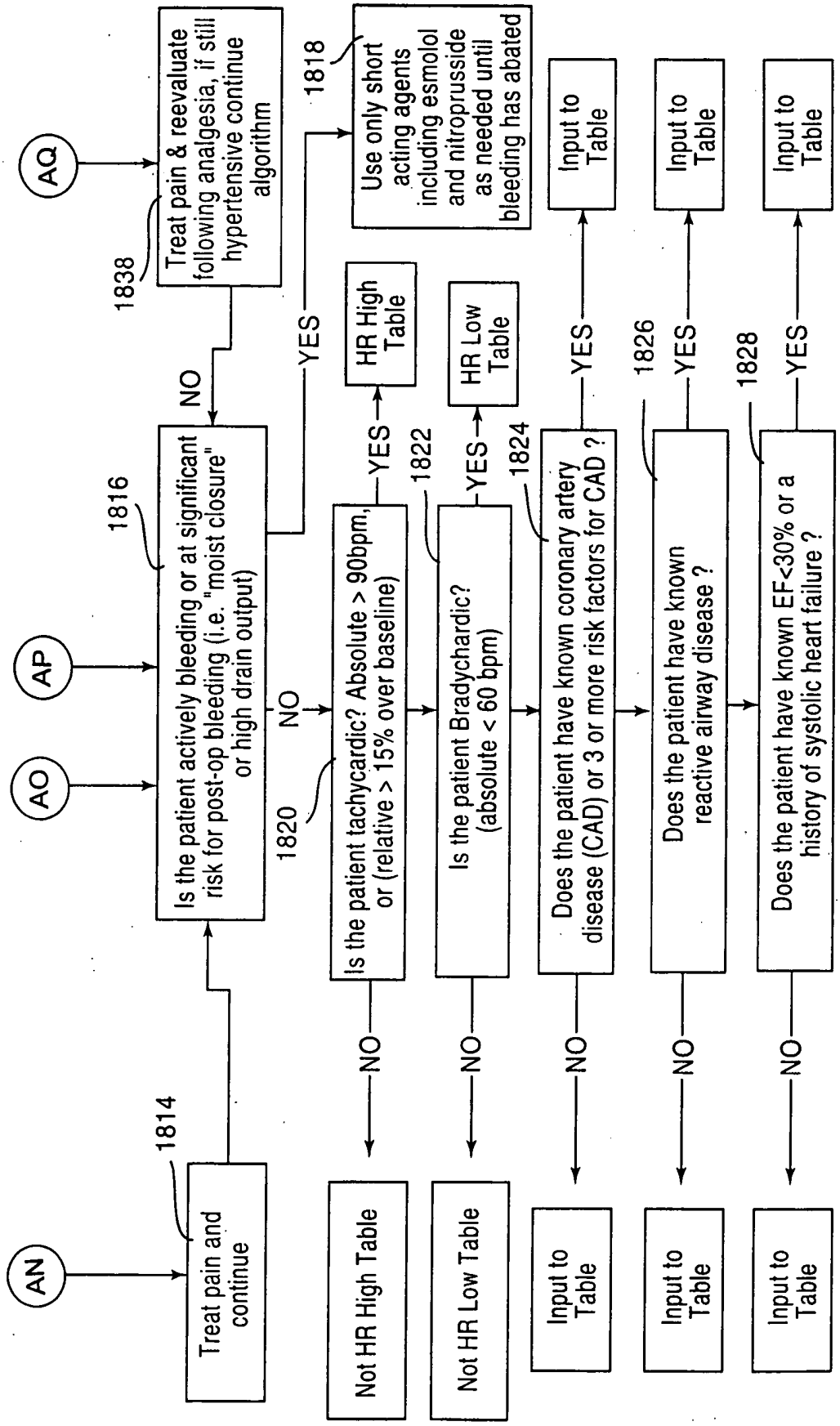

AN
AO
AP
AQ
1814
Treat pain and continue
1816
Is the patient actively bleeding or at significant risk for post-op bleeding (i.e. "moist closure" or high drain output)
NO
1838
Treat pain & reevaluate following analgesia, if still hypertensive continue algorithm
YES
1818
Use only short acting agents including esmolol and nitroprusside as needed until bleeding has abated
1820
Is the patient tachycardic? Absolute > 90bpm, or (relative > 15% over baseline)
NO
YES
HR High Table
Not HR High Table
1822
Is the patient Bradychardic? (absolute < 60 bpm)
NO
YES
HR Low Table
Not HR Low Table
1824
Does the patient have known coronary artery disease (CAD) or 3 or more risk factors for CAD ?
NO
YES
Input to Table
Input to Table
1826
Does the patient have known reactive airway disease ?
NO
YES
Input to Table
Input to Table
1828
Does the patient have known EF<30% or a history of systolic heart failure ?
NO
YES
Input to Table
Input to Table

FIG.30B

FIG. 31A

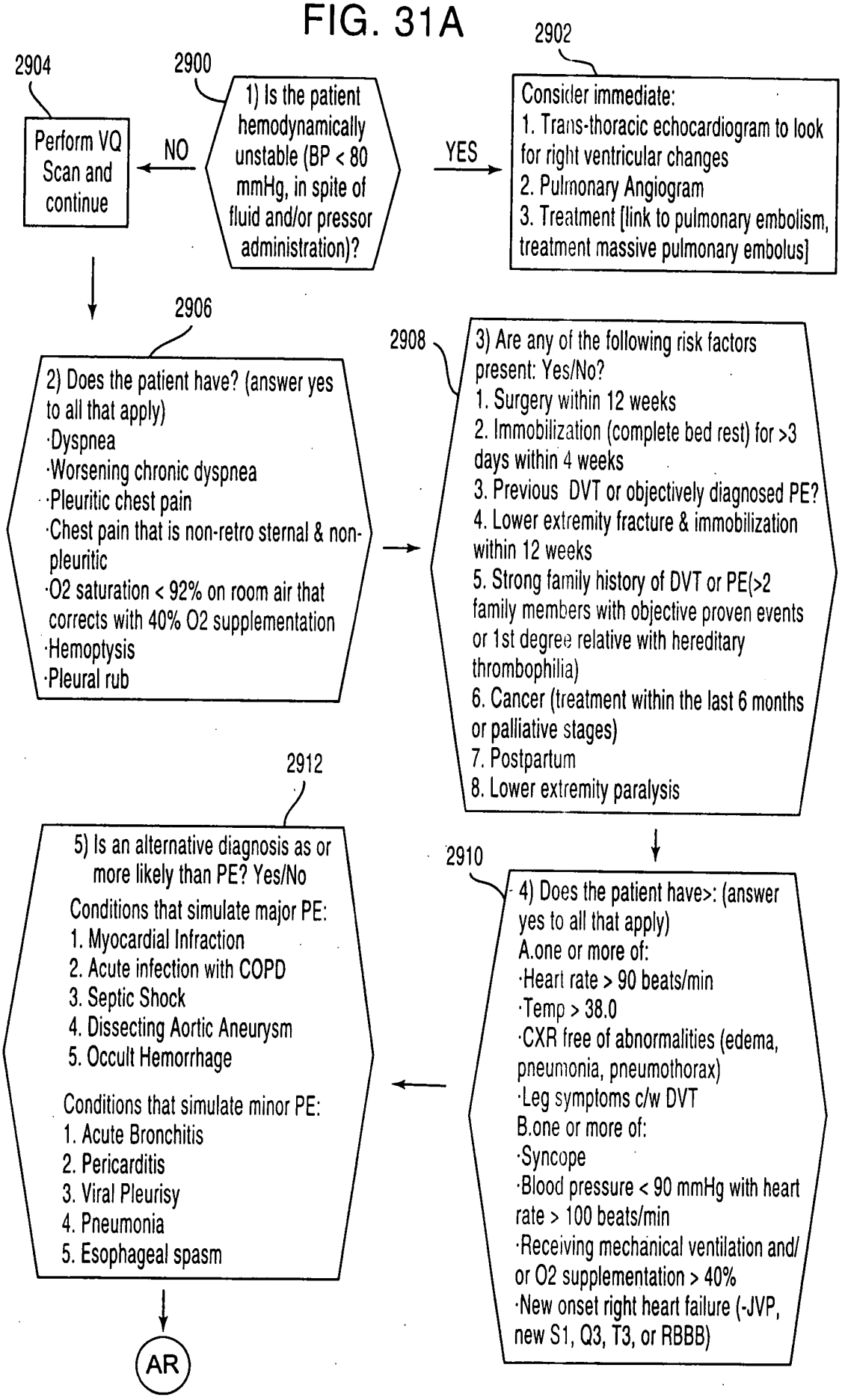
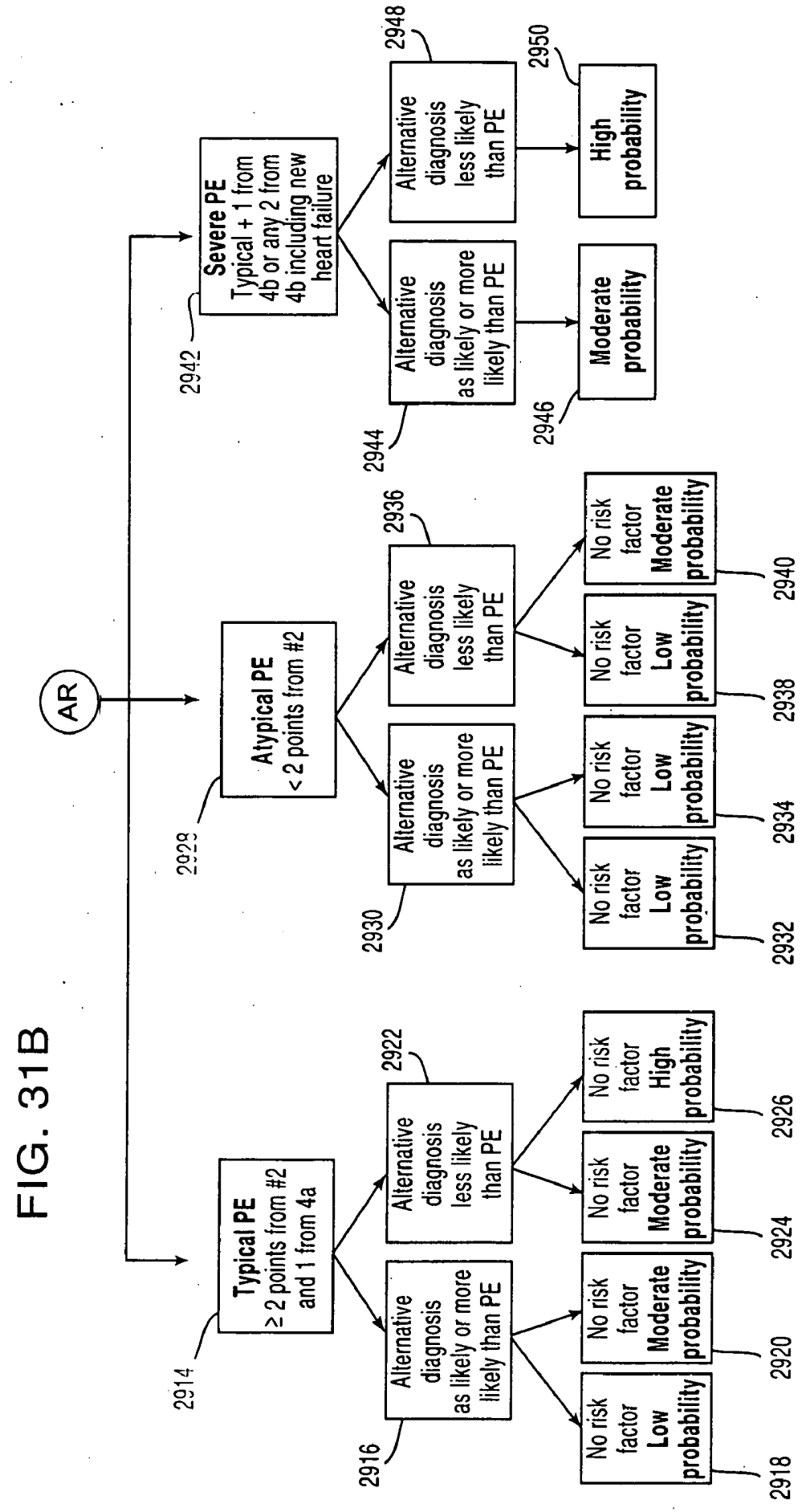

2900
1) Is the patient hemodynamically unstable (BP < 80 mmHg, in spite of fluid and/or pressor administration)?
NO
YES
2902
Consider immediate:
1. Trans-thoracic echocardiogram to look for right ventricular changes
2. Pulmonary Angiogram
3. Treatment [link to pulmonary embolism, treatment massive pulmonary embolus]
2904
Perform VQ Scan and continue
2906
2) Does the patient have? (answer yes to all that apply)
·Dyspnea
·Worsening chronic dyspnea
·Pleuritic chest pain
·Chest pain that is non-retro sternal & non-pleuritic
·O2 saturation < 92% on room air that corrects with 40% O2 supplementation
·Hemoptysis
·Pleural rub
2908
3) Are any of the following risk factors present: Yes/No?
1. Surgery within 12 weeks
2. Immobilization (complete bed rest) for >3 days within 4 weeks
3. Previous DVT or objectively diagnosed PE?
4. Lower extremity fracture & immobilization within 12 weeks
5. Strong family history of DVT or PE(>2 family members with objective proven events or 1st degree relative with hereditary thrombophilia)
6. Cancer (treatment within the last 6 months or palliative stages)
7. Postpartum
8. Lower extremity paralysis
2910
4) Does the patient have>: (answer yes to all that apply)
A.one or more of:
·Heart rate > 90 beats/min
·Temp > 38.0
·CXR free of abnormalities (edema, pneumonia, pneumothorax)
·Leg symptoms c/w DVT
B.one or more of:
·Syncope
·Blood pressure < 90 mmHg with heart rate > 100 beats/min
·Receiving mechanical ventilation and/or O2 supplementation > 40%
·New onset right heart failure (-JVP, new S1, Q3, T3, or RBBB)
2912
5) Is an alternative diagnosis as or more likely than PE? Yes/No
Conditions that simulate major PE:
1. Myocardial Infraction
2. Acute infection with COPD
3. Septic Shock
4. Dissecting Aortic Aneurysm
5. Occult Hemorrhage
Conditions that simulate minor PE:
1. Acute Bronchitis
2. Pericarditis
3. Viral Pleurisy
4. Pneumonia
5. Esophageal spasm
AR

FIG. 31B


AR
Typical PE
≥ 2 points from #2 and 1 from 4a
2914
Atypical PE
< 2 points from #2
2928
Severe PE
Typical + 1 from 4b or any 2 from 4b including new heart failure
2942
Alternative diagnosis as likely or more likely than PE
2916
Alternative diagnosis less likely than PE
2922
Alternative diagnosis as likely or more likely than PE
2930
Alternative diagnosis less likely than PE
2936
Alternative diagnosis as likely or more likely than PE
2944
Alternative diagnosis less likely than PE
2948
No risk factor Low probability
2918
No risk factor Moderate probability
2920
No risk factor Moderate probability
2924
No risk factor High probability
2926
No risk factor Low probability
2932
No risk factor Low probability
2934
No risk factor Low probability
2938
No risk factor Moderate probability
2940
Moderate probability
2946
High probability
2950

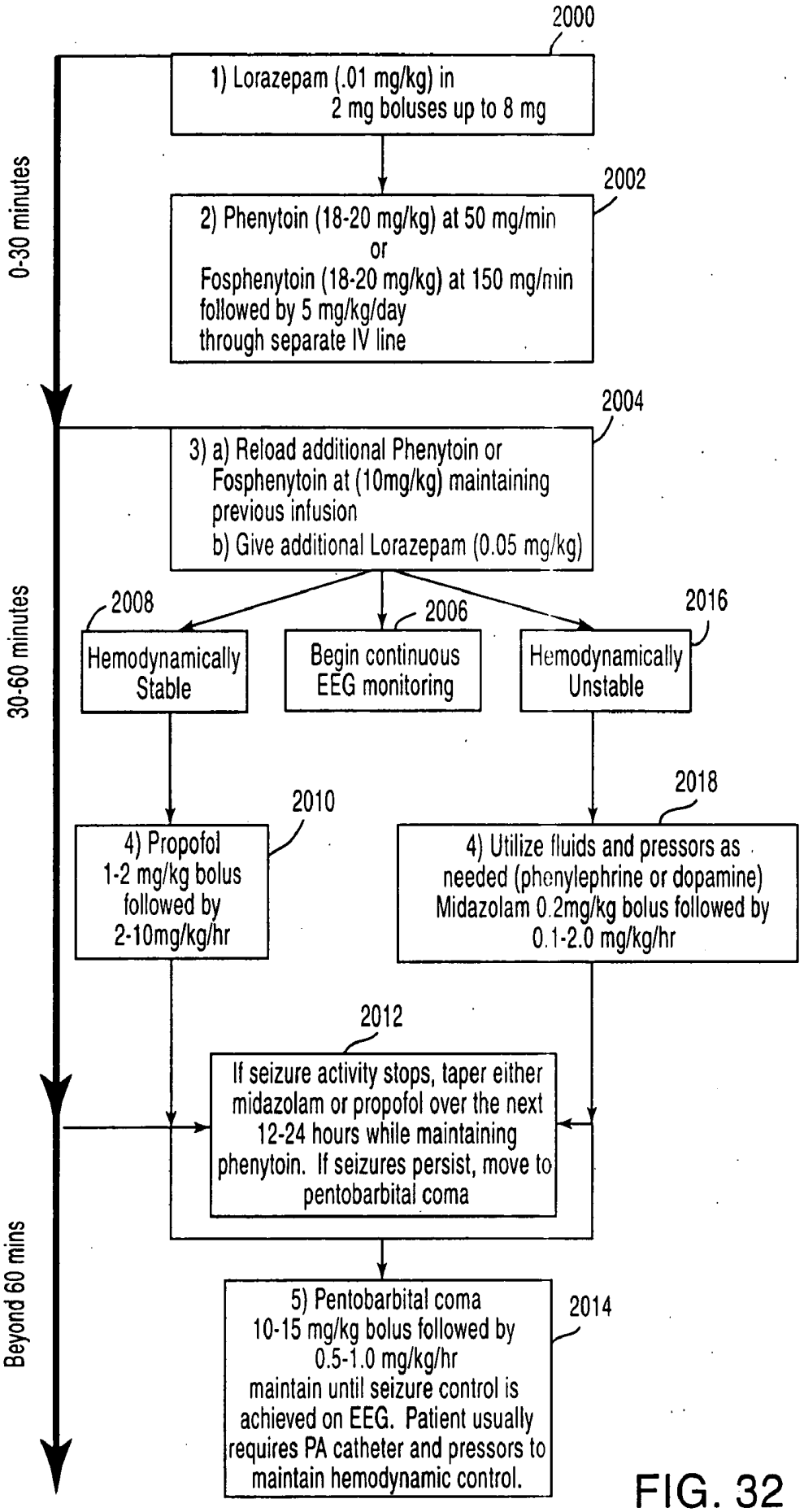

2000
1) Lorazepam (.01 mg/kg) in 2 mg boluses up to 8 mg
0-30 minutes
2002
2) Phenytoin (18-20 mg/kg) at 50 mg/min or Fosphenytoin (18-20 mg/kg) at 150 mg/min followed by 5 mg/kg/day through separate IV line
2004
3) a) Reload additional Phenytoin or Fosphenytoin at (10mg/kg) maintaining previous infusion b) Give additional Lorazepam (0.05 mg/kg)
30-60 minutes
2008
Hemodynamically Stable
2006
Begin continuous EEG monitoring
2016
Hemodynamically Unstable
2010
4) Propofol 1-2 mg/kg bolus followed by 2-10mg/kg/hr
2018
4) Utilize fluids and pressors as needed (phenylephrine or dopamine) Midazolam 0.2mg/kg bolus followed by 0.1-2.0 mg/kg/hr
2012
If seizure activity stops, taper either midazolam or propofol over the next 12-24 hours while maintaining phenytoin. If seizures persist, move to pentobarbital coma
Beyond 60 mins
5) Pentobarbital coma 10-15 mg/kg bolus followed by 0.5-1.0 mg/kg/hr maintain until seizure control is achieved on EEG. Patient usually requires PA catheter and pressors to maintain hemodynamic control.
2014

FIG. 32

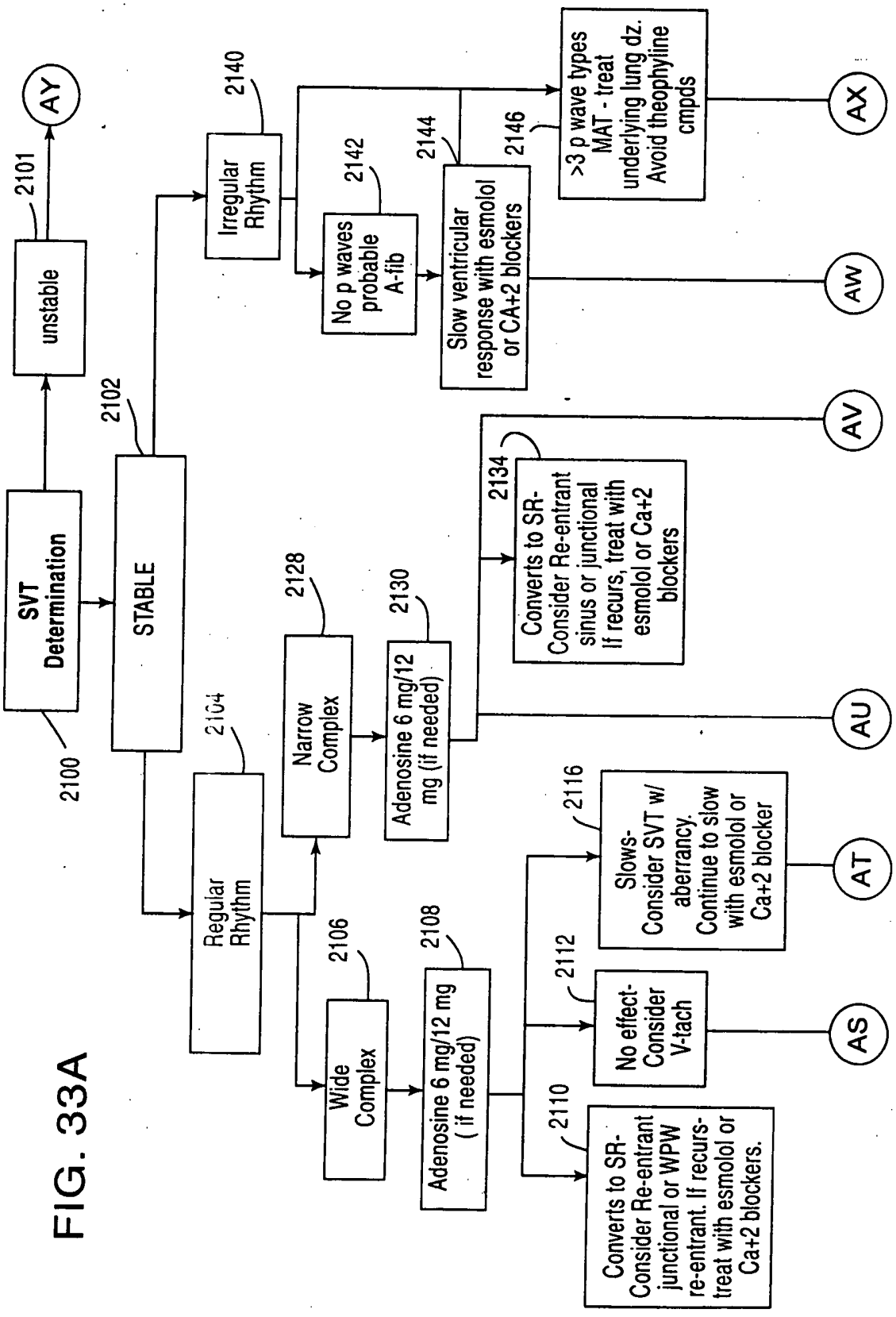

SVT Determination
2100
STABLE
2102
unstable
2101
AY
Regular Rhythm
2104
Wide Complex
2106
Adenosine 6 mg/12 mg (if needed)
2108
Converts to SR- Consider Re-entrant junctional or WPW re-entrant. If recurs- treat with esmolol or Ca+2 blockers.
2110
No effect- Consider V-tach
2112
AS
Slows- Consider SVT w/ aberrancy. Continue to slow with esmolol or Ca+2 blocker
2116
AT
Narrow Complex
2128
Adenosine 6 mg/12 mg (if needed)
2130
AU
Converts to SR- Consider Re-entrant sinus or junctional If recurs, treat with esmolol or Ca+2 blockers
2134
AV
Irregular Rhythm
2140
No p waves probable A-fib
2142
Slow ventricular response with esmolol or CA+2 blockers
2144
AW
>3 p wave types MAT - treat underlying lung dz. Avoid theophyline cmpds
2146
AX

FIG. 33A

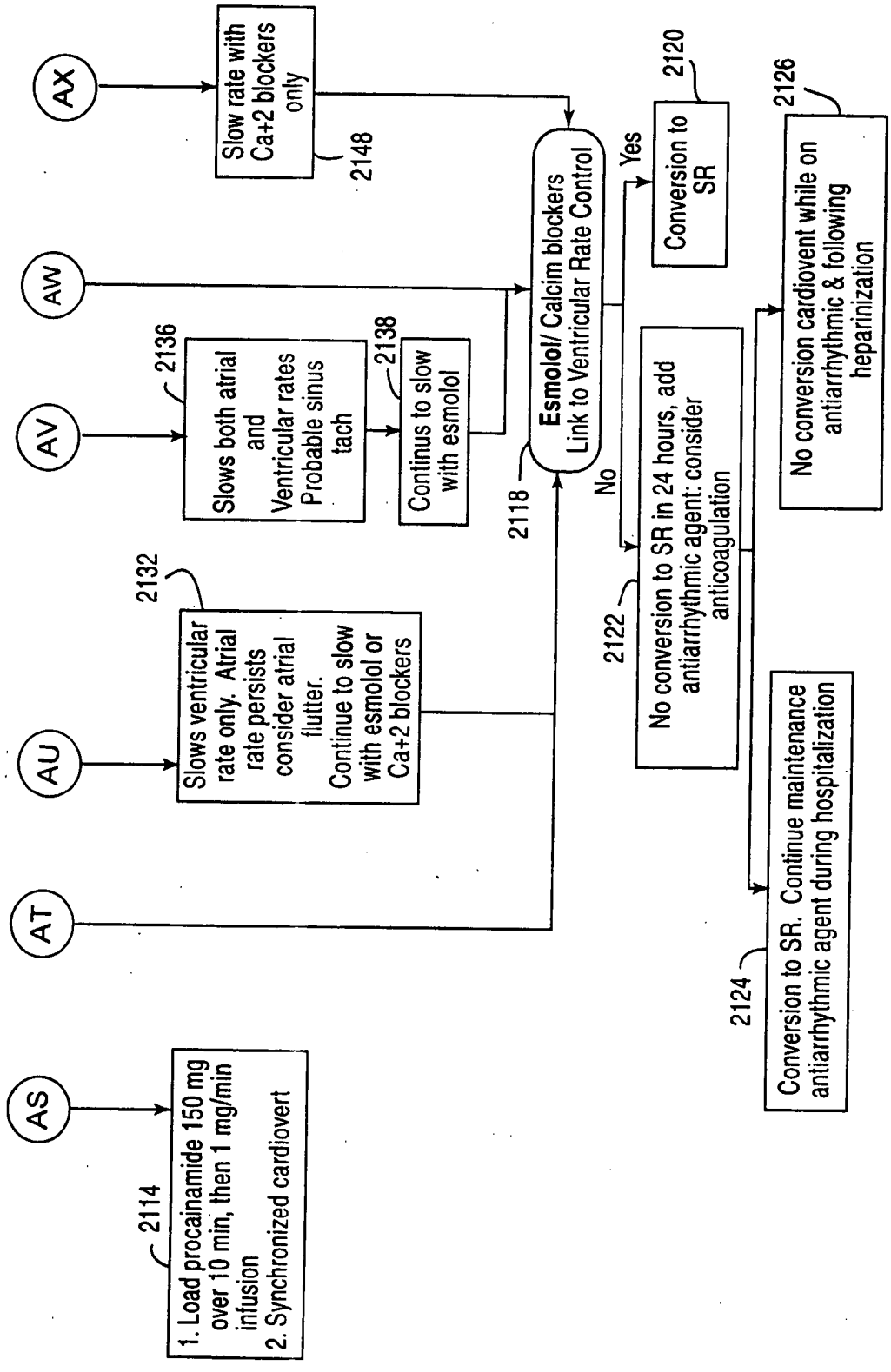

AX
Slow rate with Ca+2 blockers only
2148
AW
AV
2136
Slows both atrial and Ventricular rates Probable sinus tach
2138
Continus to slow with esmolol
AU
2132
Slows ventricular rate only. Atrial rate persists consider atrial flutter. Continue to slow with esmolol or Ca+2 blockers
AT
Esmolol/ Calcim blockers Link to Ventricular Rate Control
2118
Yes
No
Conversion to SR
2120
2122
No conversion to SR in 24 hours, add antiarrhythmic agent: consider anticoagulation
2126
No conversion cardiovent while on antiarrhythmic & following heparinization
AS
2114
1. Load procainamide 150 mg over 10 min, then 1 mg/min infusion
2. Synchronized cardiovert
2124
Conversion to SR. Continue maintenance antiarrhythmic agent during hospitalization

FIG. 33B

FIG. 33C

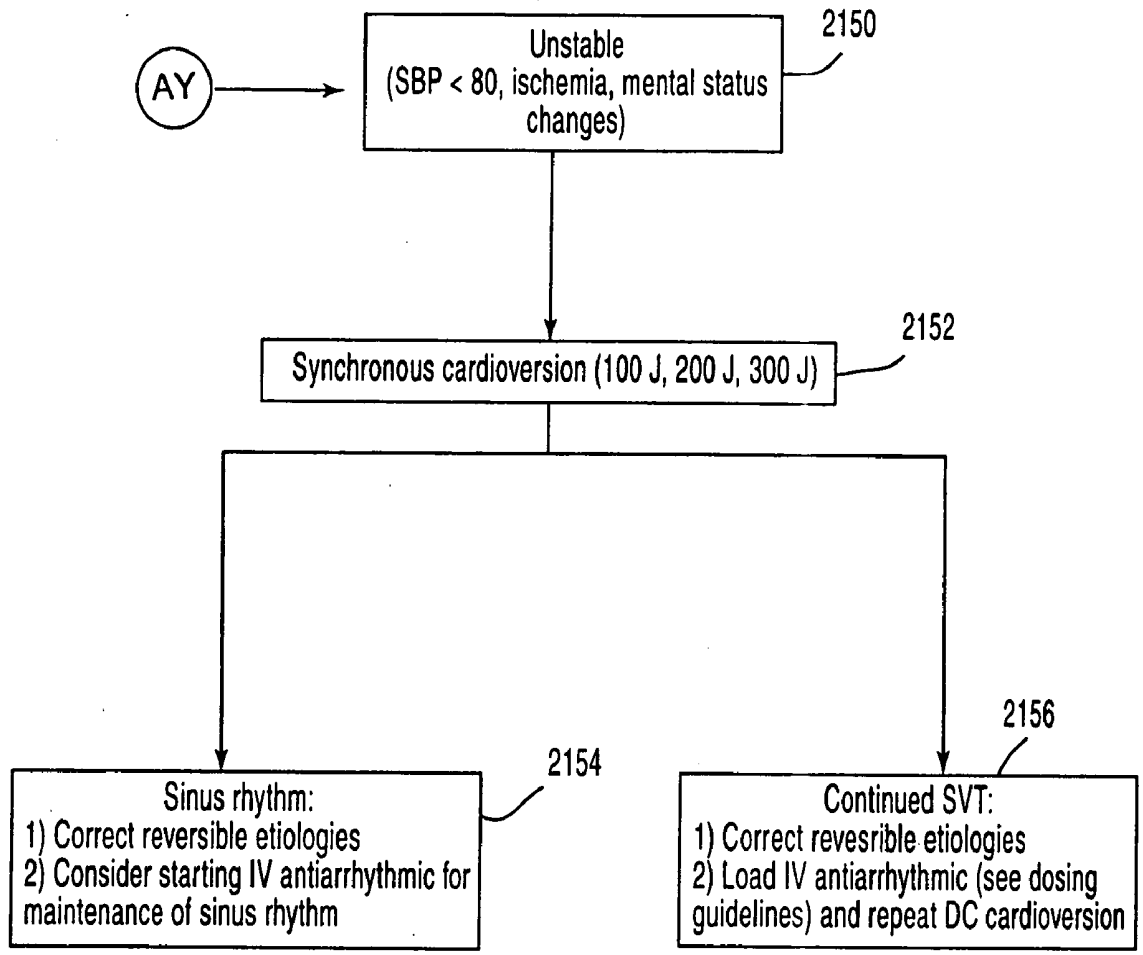
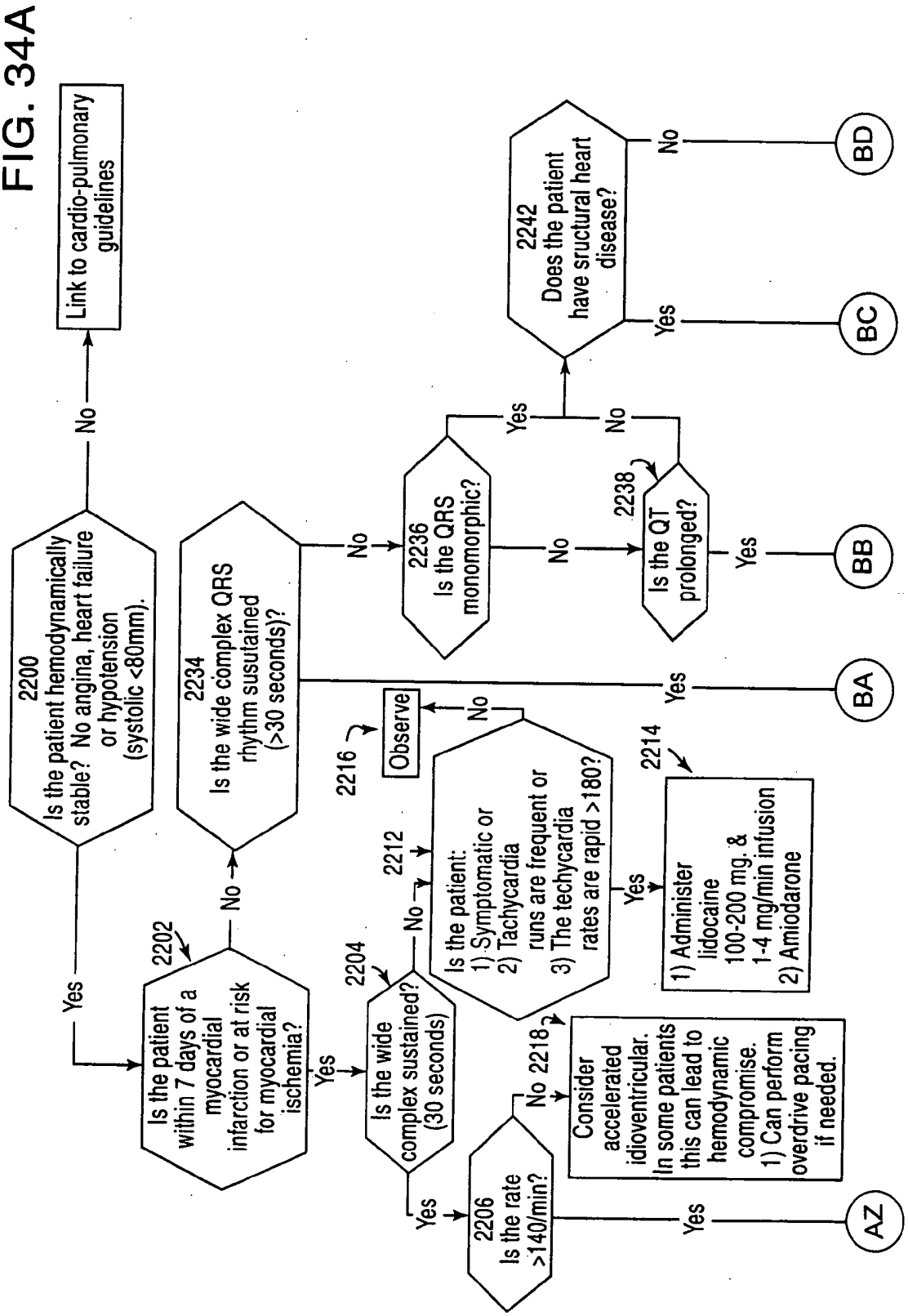

AY
Unstable
(SBP < 80, ischemia, mental status changes)
2150
Synchronous cardioversion (100 J, 200 J, 300 J)
2152
Sinus rhythm:
1) Correct reversible etiologies
2) Consider starting IV antiarrhythmic for maintenance of sinus rhythm
2154
Continued SVT:
1) Correct revesrible etiologies
2) Load IV antiarrhythmic (see dosing guidelines) and repeat DC cardioversion
2156

FIG. 34A


2200
Is the patient hemodynamically stable? No angina, heart failure or hypotension (systolic <80mm).
No
Link to cardio-pulmonary guidelines
Yes
2202
Is the patient within 7 days of a myocardial infarction or at risk for myocardial ischemia?
No
Yes
2204
Is the wide complex sustained? (30 seconds)
No
2212
Is the patient: 1) Symptomatic or 2) Tachycardia runs are frequent or 3) The techycardia rates are rapid >180?
No
2216
Observe
Yes
2214
1) Administer lidocaine 100-200 mg. & 1-4 mg/min infusion 2) Amiodarone
Yes
2206
Is the rate >140/min?
No 2218
Consider accelerated idioventricular. In some patients this can lead to hemodynamic compromise. 1) Can perform overdrive pacing if needed.
Yes
AZ
2234
Is the wide complex QRS rhythm susutained (>30 seconds)?
No
2236
Is the QRS monomorphic?
Yes
No
2238
Is the QT prolonged?
Yes
BB
No
2242
Does the patient have sructural heart disease?
Yes
BC
No
BD
Yes
BA

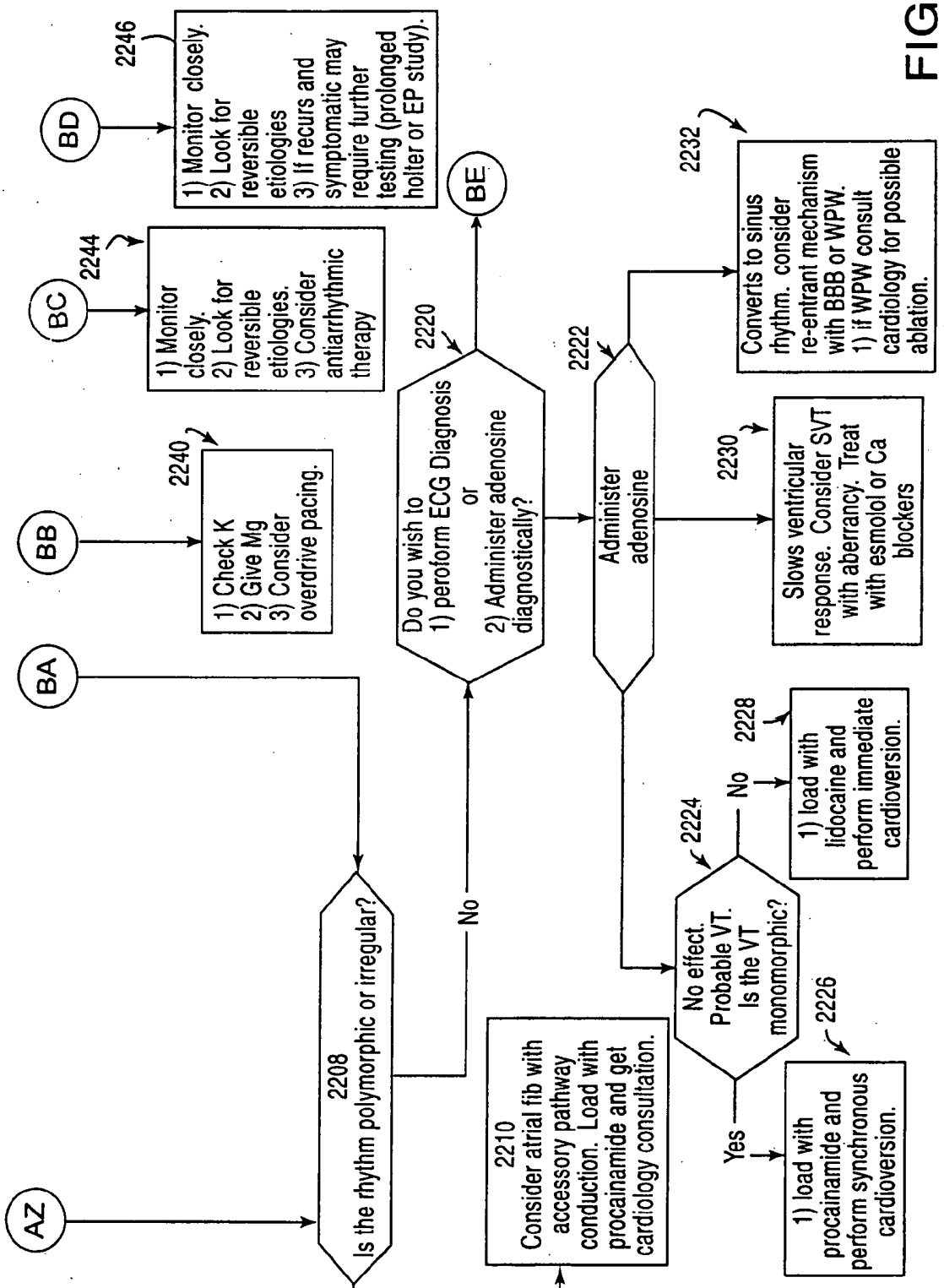
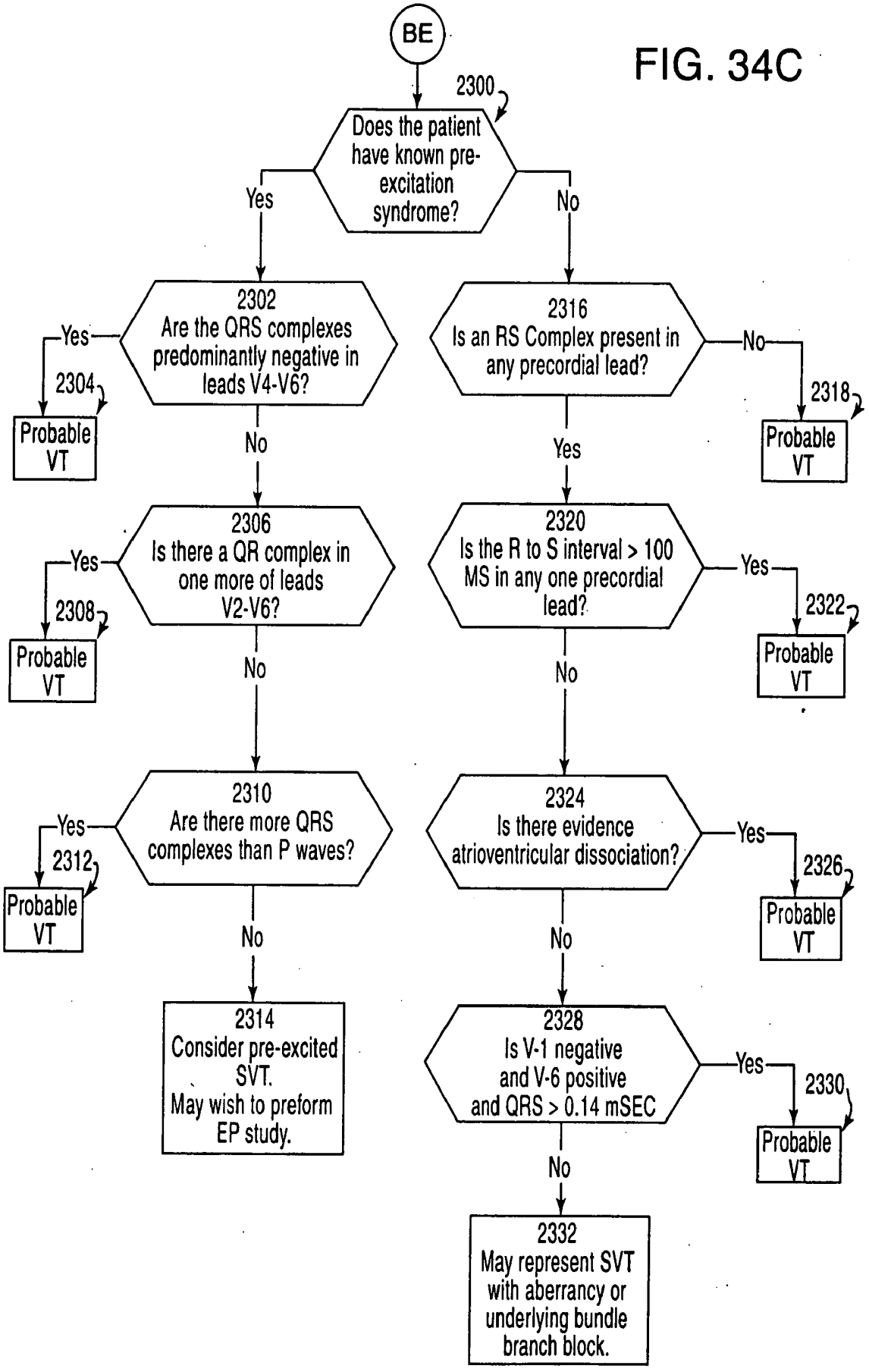

AZ
2208
Is the rhythm polymorphic or irregular?
Yes
No
2210
Consider atrial fib with accessory pathway conduction. Load with procainamide and get cardiology consultation.
BA
BB
2240
1) Check K
2) Give Mg
3) Consider overdrive pacing.
BC
2244
1) Monitor closely.
2) Look for reversible etiologies.
3) Consider antiarrhythmic therapy
BD
2246
1) Monitor closely.
2) Look for reversible etiologies
3) If recurs and symptomatic may require further testing (prolonged holter or EP study).
BE
2220
Do you wish to
1) peroform ECG Diagnosis
or
2) Administer adenosine diagnostically?
2222
Administer adenosine
2224
No effect. Probable VT. Is the VT monomorphic?
No
2228
1) load with lidocaine and perform immediate cardioversion.
Yes
2226
1) load with procainamide and perform synchronous cardioversion.
2230
Slows ventricular response. Consider SVT with aberrancy. Treat with esmolol or Ca blockers
2232
Converts to sinus rhythm. consider re-entrant mechanism with BBB or WPW.
1) if WPW consult cardiology for possible ablation.

FIG. 34B

FIG. 34C


BE
2300
Does the patient have known pre-excitation syndrome?
Yes
No
2302
Are the QRS complexes predominantly negative in leads V4-V6?
Yes
2304
Probable VT
No
2306
Is there a QR complex in one more of leads V2-V6?
Yes
2308
Probable VT
No
2310
Are there more QRS complexes than P waves?
Yes
2312
Probable VT
No
2314
Consider pre-excited SVT.
May wish to preform EP study.
2316
Is an RS Complex present in any precordial lead?
No
2318
Probable VT
Yes
2320
Is the R to S interval > 100 MS in any one precordial lead?
Yes
2322
Probable VT
No
2324
Is there evidence atrioventricular dissociation?
Yes
2326
Probable VT
No
2328
Is V-1 negative and V-6 positive and QRS > 0.14 mSEC
Yes
2330
Probable VT
No
2332
May represent SVT with aberrancy or underlying bundle branch block.

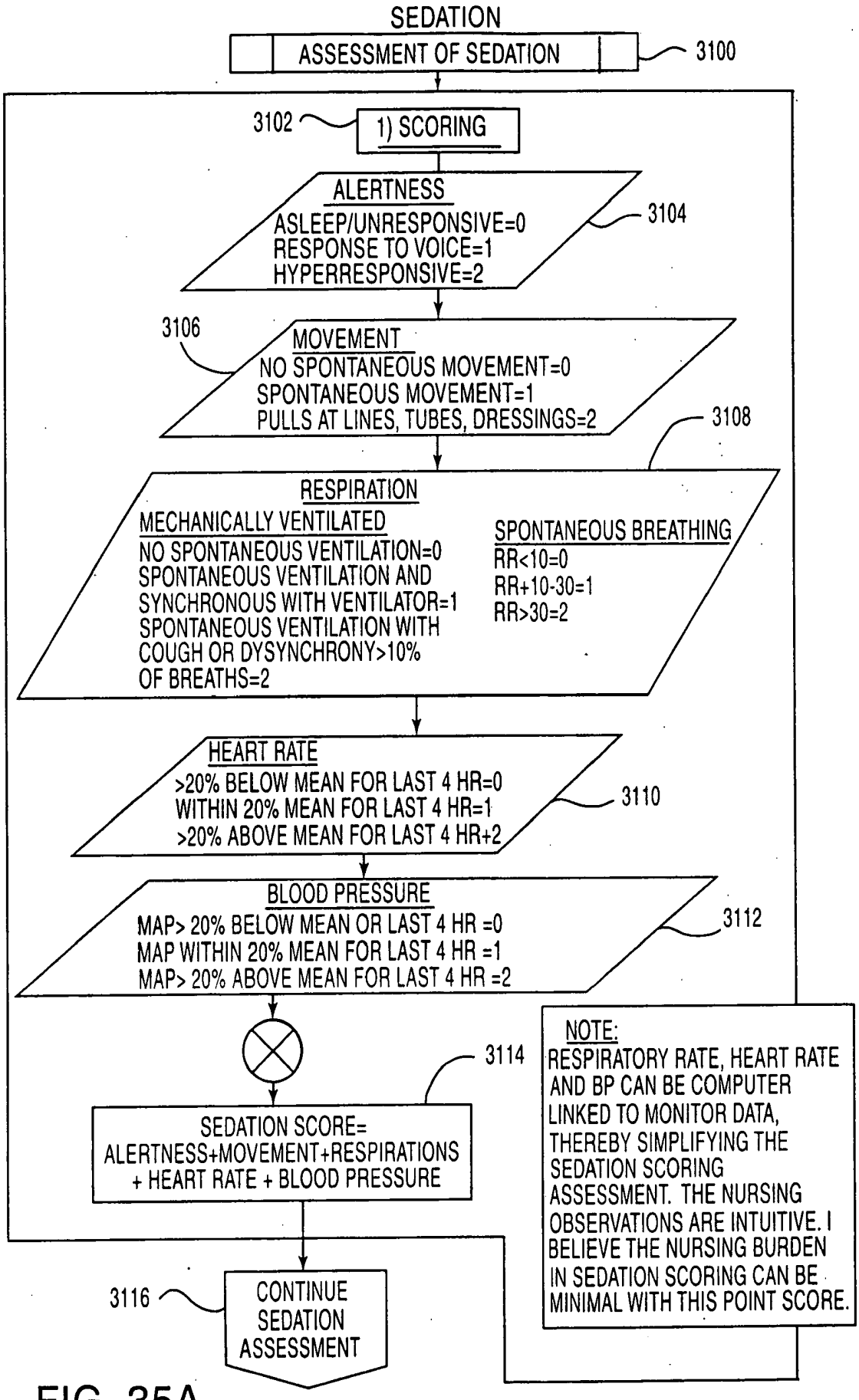

SEDATION
ASSESSMENT OF SEDATION
3100
3102
1) SCORING
ALERTNESS
ASLEEP/UNRESPONSIVE=0
RESPONSE TO VOICE=1
HYPERRESPONSIVE=2
3104
3106
MOVEMENT
NO SPONTANEOUS MOVEMENT=0
SPONTANEOUS MOVEMENT=1
PULLS AT LINES, TUBES, DRESSINGS=2
3108
RESPIRATION
MECHANICALLY VENTILATED
NO SPONTANEOUS VENTILATION=0
SPONTANEOUS VENTILATION AND SYNCHRONOUS WITH VENTILATOR=1
SPONTANEOUS VENTILATION WITH COUGH OR DYSYNCHRONY>10% OF BREATHS=2
SPONTANEOUS BREATHING
RR<10=0
RR+10-30=1
RR>30=2
HEART RATE
>20% BELOW MEAN FOR LAST 4 HR=0
WITHIN 20% MEAN FOR LAST 4 HR=1
>20% ABOVE MEAN FOR LAST 4 HR+2
3110
BLOOD PRESSURE
MAP> 20% BELOW MEAN OR LAST 4 HR =0
MAP WITHIN 20% MEAN FOR LAST 4 HR =1
MAP> 20% ABOVE MEAN FOR LAST 4 HR =2
3112
3114
SEDATION SCORE=
ALERTNESS+MOVEMENT+RESPIRATIONS + HEART RATE + BLOOD PRESSURE
NOTE:
RESPIRATORY RATE, HEART RATE AND BP CAN BE COMPUTER LINKED TO MONITOR DATA, THEREBY SIMPLIFYING THE SEDATION SCORING ASSESSMENT. THE NURSING OBSERVATIONS ARE INTUITIVE. I BELIEVE THE NURSING BURDEN IN SEDATION SCORING CAN BE MINIMAL WITH THIS POINT SCORE.
3116
CONTINUE SEDATION ASSESSMENT

FIG. 35A

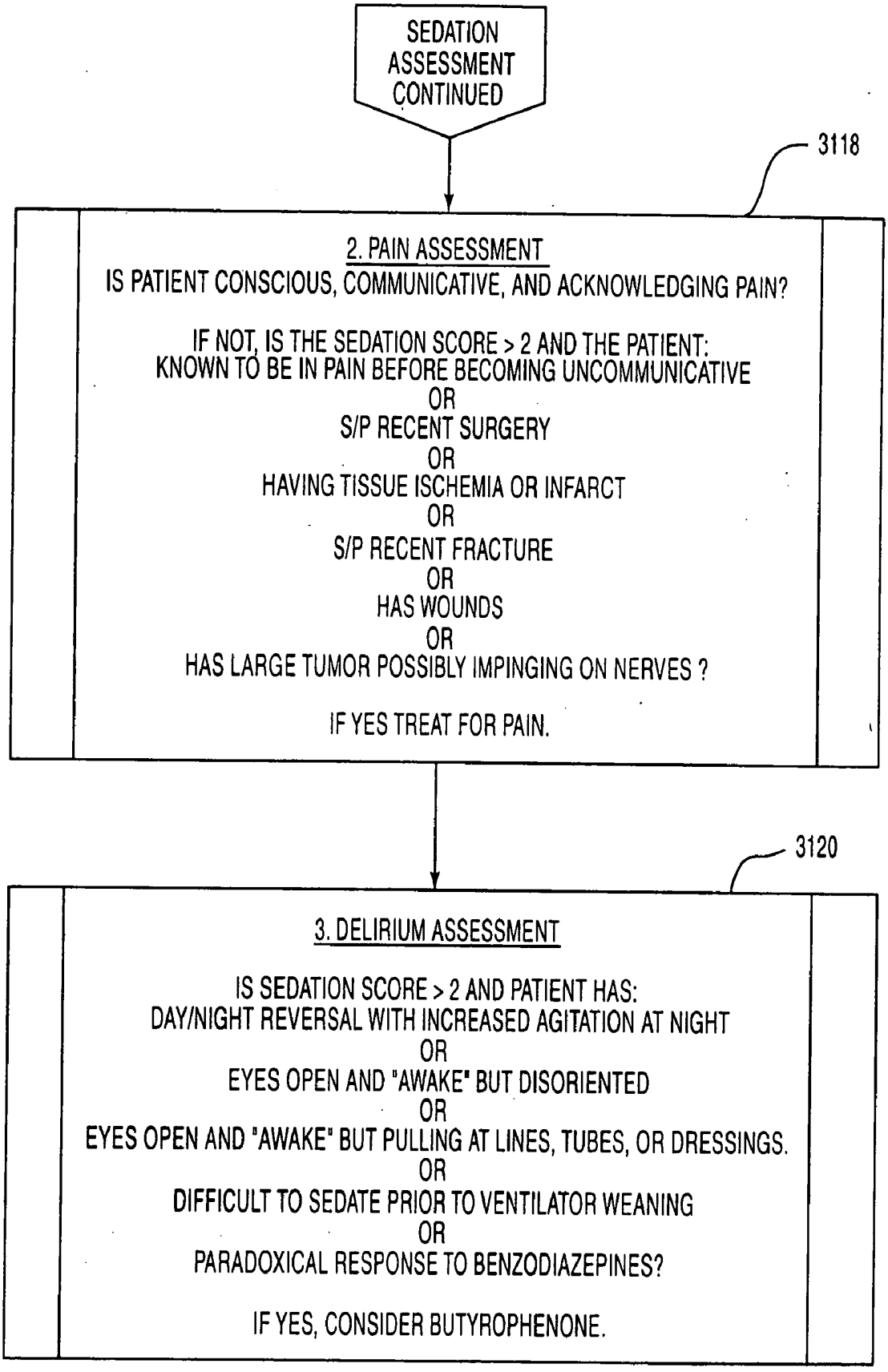

SEDATION ASSESSMENT CONTINUED
3118
2. PAIN ASSESSMENT
IS PATIENT CONSCIOUS, COMMUNICATIVE, AND ACKNOWLEDGING PAIN?
IF NOT, IS THE SEDATION SCORE > 2 AND THE PATIENT:
KNOWN TO BE IN PAIN BEFORE BECOMING UNCOMMUNICATIVE
OR
S/P RECENT SURGERY
OR
HAVING TISSUE ISCHEMIA OR INFARCT
OR
S/P RECENT FRACTURE
OR
HAS WOUNDS
OR
HAS LARGE TUMOR POSSIBLY IMPINGING ON NERVES ?
IF YES TREAT FOR PAIN.
3120
3. DELIRIUM ASSESSMENT
IS SEDATION SCORE > 2 AND PATIENT HAS:
DAY/NIGHT REVERSAL WITH INCREASED AGITATION AT NIGHT
OR
EYES OPEN AND "AWAKE" BUT DISORIENTED
OR
EYES OPEN AND "AWAKE" BUT PULLING AT LINES, TUBES, OR DRESSINGS.
OR
DIFFICULT TO SEDATE PRIOR TO VENTILATOR WEANING
OR
PARADOXICAL RESPONSE TO BENZODIAZEPINES?
IF YES, CONSIDER BUTYROPHENONE.

FIG. 35B

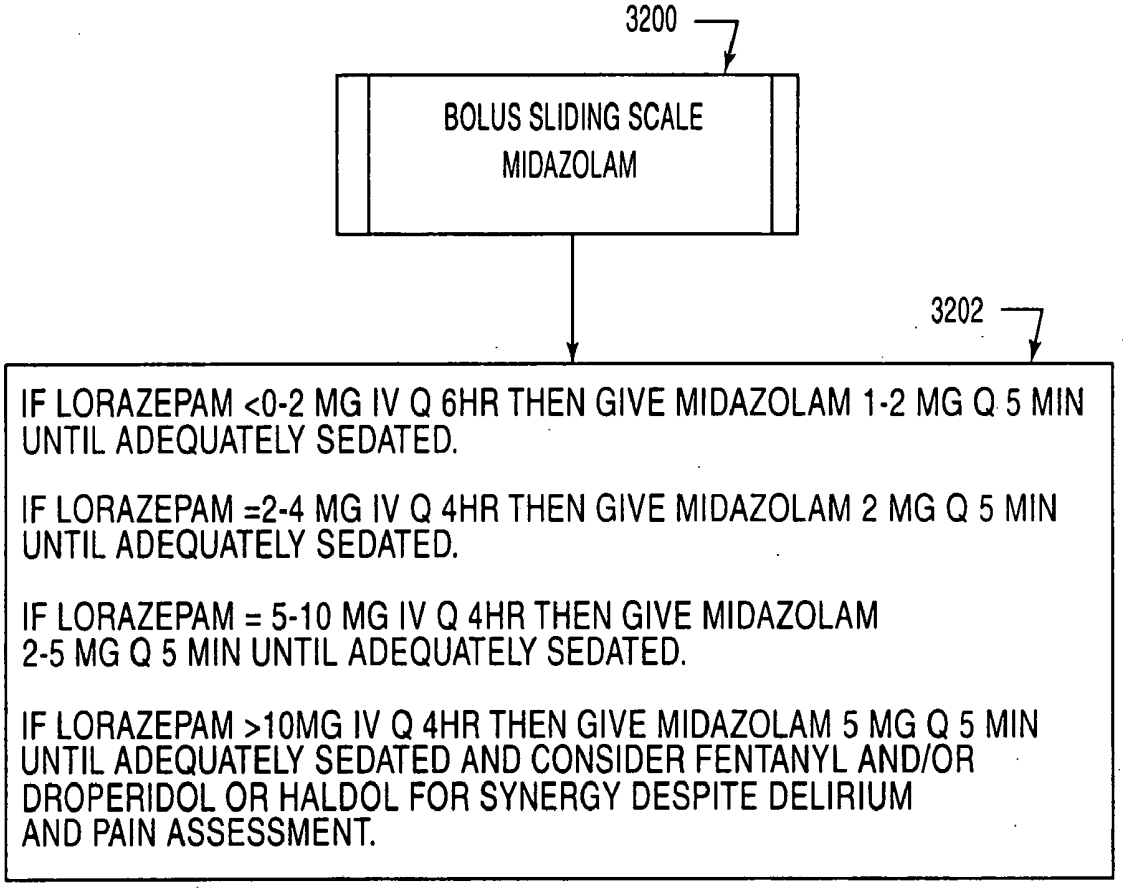

3200
BOLUS SLIDING SCALE
MIDAZOLAM
3202
IF LORAZEPAM <0-2 MG IV Q 6HR THEN GIVE MIDAZOLAM 1-2 MG Q 5 MIN UNTIL ADEQUATELY SEDATED.
IF LORAZEPAM =2-4 MG IV Q 4HR THEN GIVE MIDAZOLAM 2 MG Q 5 MIN UNTIL ADEQUATELY SEDATED.
IF LORAZEPAM = 5-10 MG IV Q 4HR THEN GIVE MIDAZOLAM 2-5 MG Q 5 MIN UNTIL ADEQUATELY SEDATED.
IF LORAZEPAM >10MG IV Q 4HR THEN GIVE MIDAZOLAM 5 MG Q 5 MIN UNTIL ADEQUATELY SEDATED AND CONSIDER FENTANYL AND/OR DROPERIDOL OR HALDOL FOR SYNERGY DESPITE DELIRIUM AND PAIN ASSESSMENT.

FIG. 36

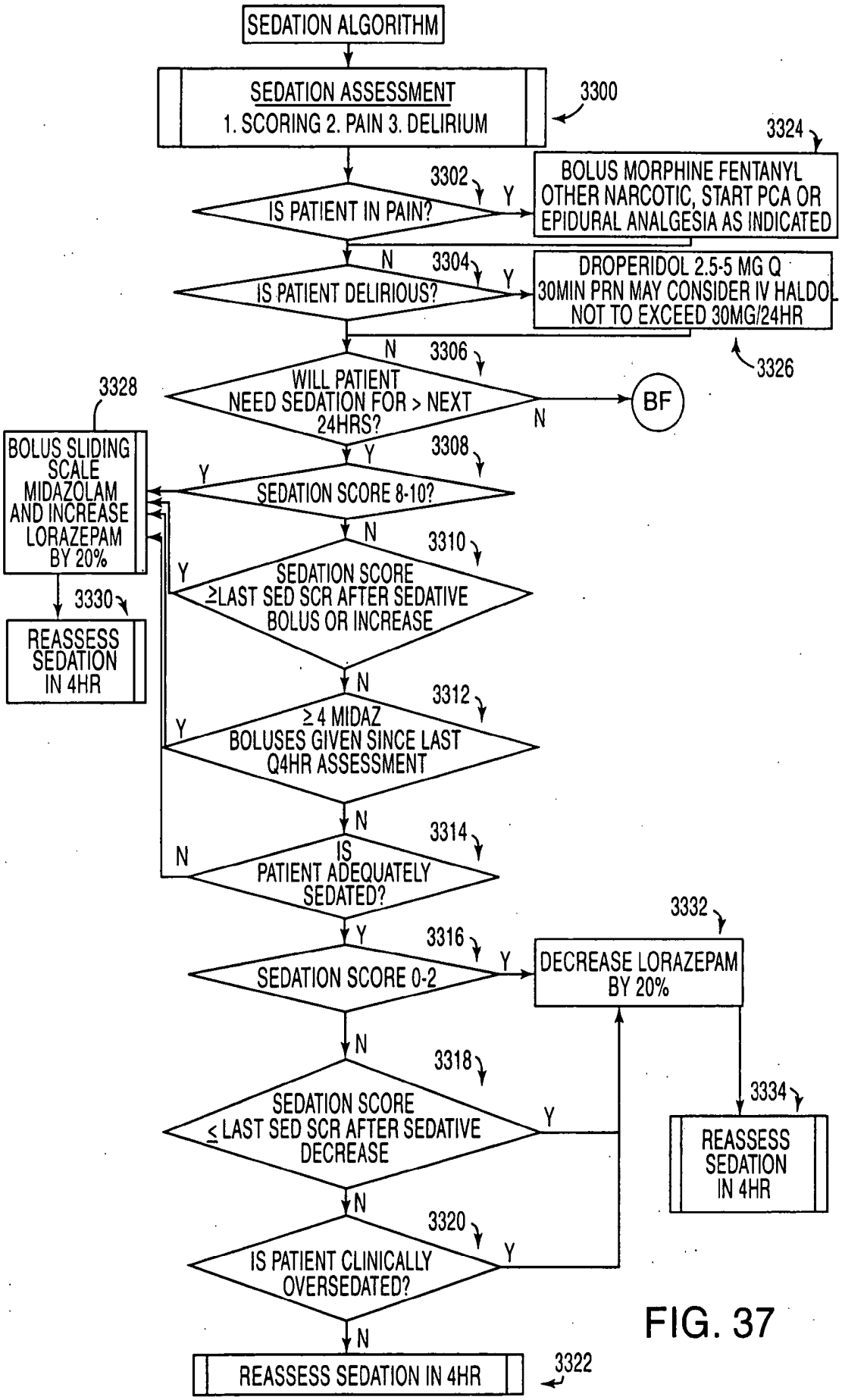

SEDATION ALGORITHM
SEDATION ASSESSMENT
1. SCORING 2. PAIN 3. DELIRIUM
3300
3302
IS PATIENT IN PAIN?
Y
3324
BOLUS MORPHINE FENTANYL OTHER NARCOTIC, START PCA OR EPIDURAL ANALGESIA AS INDICATED
N
3304
IS PATIENT DELIRIOUS?
Y
DROPERIDOL 2.5-5 MG Q 30MIN PRN MAY CONSIDER IV HALDOL NOT TO EXCEED 30MG/24HR
3326
N
3306
WILL PATIENT NEED SEDATION FOR > NEXT 24HRS?
N
BF
Y
3308
SEDATION SCORE 8-10?
Y
3328
BOLUS SLIDING SCALE MIDAZOLAM AND INCREASE LORAZEPAM BY 20%
N
3310
SEDATION SCORE ≥LAST SED SCR AFTER SEDATIVE BOLUS OR INCREASE
Y
3330
REASSESS SEDATION IN 4HR
N
3312
≥ 4 MIDAZ BOLUSES GIVEN SINCE LAST Q4HR ASSESSMENT
Y
N
3314
IS PATIENT ADEQUATELY SEDATED?
N
Y
3316
SEDATION SCORE 0-2
Y
3332
DECREASE LORAZEPAM BY 20%
N
3318
SEDATION SCORE ≤ LAST SED SCR AFTER SEDATIVE DECREASE
Y
3334
REASSESS SEDATION IN 4HR
N
3320
IS PATIENT CLINICALLY OVERSEDATED?
Y
N
REASSESS SEDATION IN 4HR
3322

FIG. 37

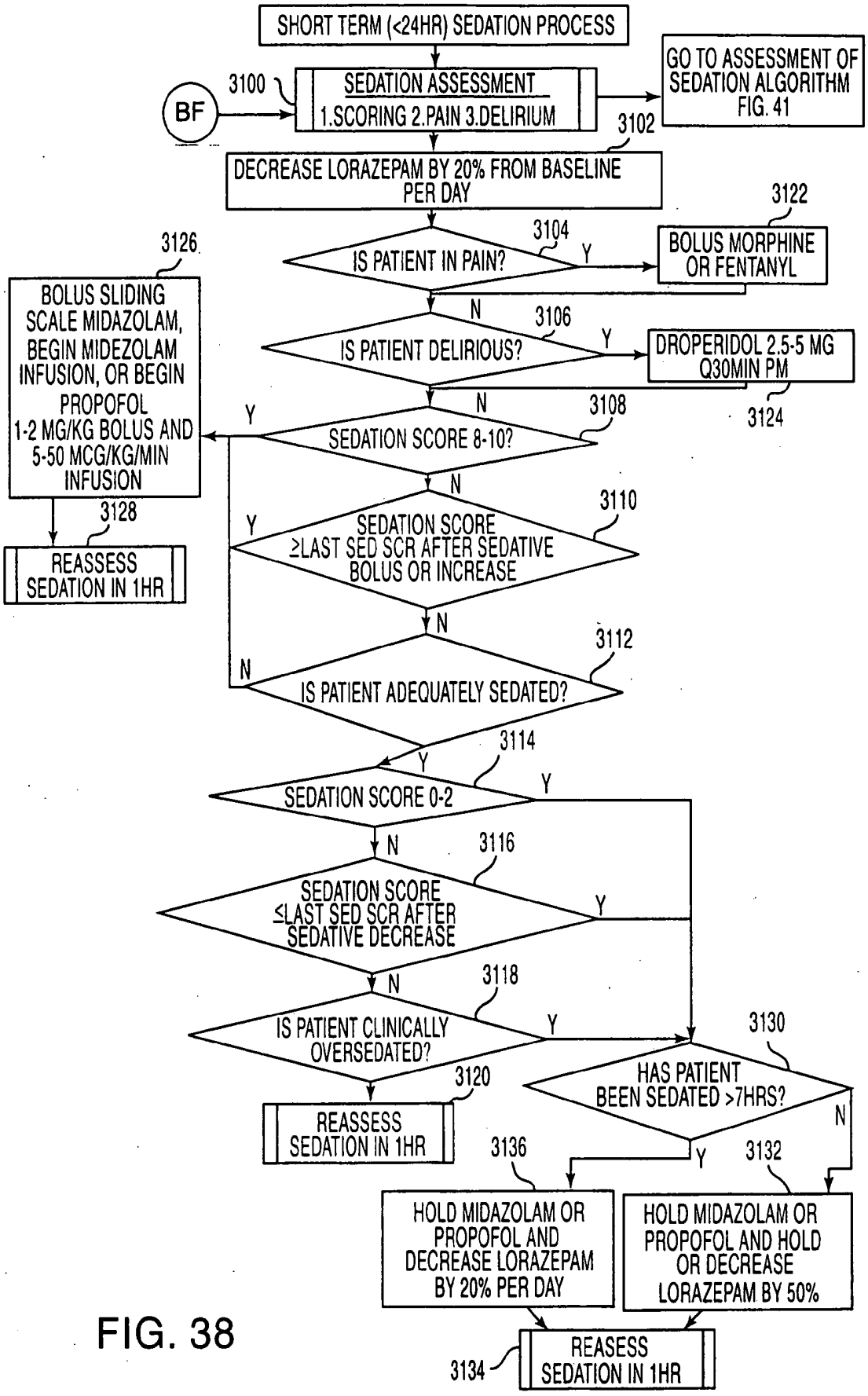

SHORT TERM (<24HR) SEDATION PROCESS
BF
3100
SEDATION ASSESSMENT
1.SCORING 2.PAIN 3.DELIRIUM
GO TO ASSESSMENT OF SEDATION ALGORITHM FIG. 41
3102
DECREASE LORAZEPAM BY 20% FROM BASELINE PER DAY
3104
IS PATIENT IN PAIN?
Y
3122
BOLUS MORPHINE OR FENTANYL
N
3106
IS PATIENT DELIRIOUS?
Y
DROPERIDOL 2.5-5 MG Q30MIN PM
3124
N
3108
SEDATION SCORE 8-10?
Y
3126
BOLUS SLIDING SCALE MIDAZOLAM, BEGIN MIDEZOLAM INFUSION, OR BEGIN PROPOFOL 1-2 MG/KG BOLUS AND 5-50 MCG/KG/MIN INFUSION
3128
REASSESS SEDATION IN 1HR
N
3110
SEDATION SCORE ≥LAST SED SCR AFTER SEDATIVE BOLUS OR INCREASE
Y
N
3112
IS PATIENT ADEQUATELY SEDATED?
N
Y
3114
SEDATION SCORE 0-2
Y
N
3116
SEDATION SCORE ≤LAST SED SCR AFTER SEDATIVE DECREASE
Y
N
3118
IS PATIENT CLINICALLY OVERSEDATED?
Y
3120
REASSESS SEDATION IN 1HR
3130
HAS PATIENT BEEN SEDATED >7HRS?
N
Y
3136
HOLD MIDAZOLAM OR PROPOFOL AND DECREASE LORAZEPAM BY 20% PER DAY
3132
HOLD MIDAZOLAM OR PROPOFOL AND HOLD OR DECREASE LORAZEPAM BY 50%
3134
REASESS SEDATION IN 1HR

FIG. 38

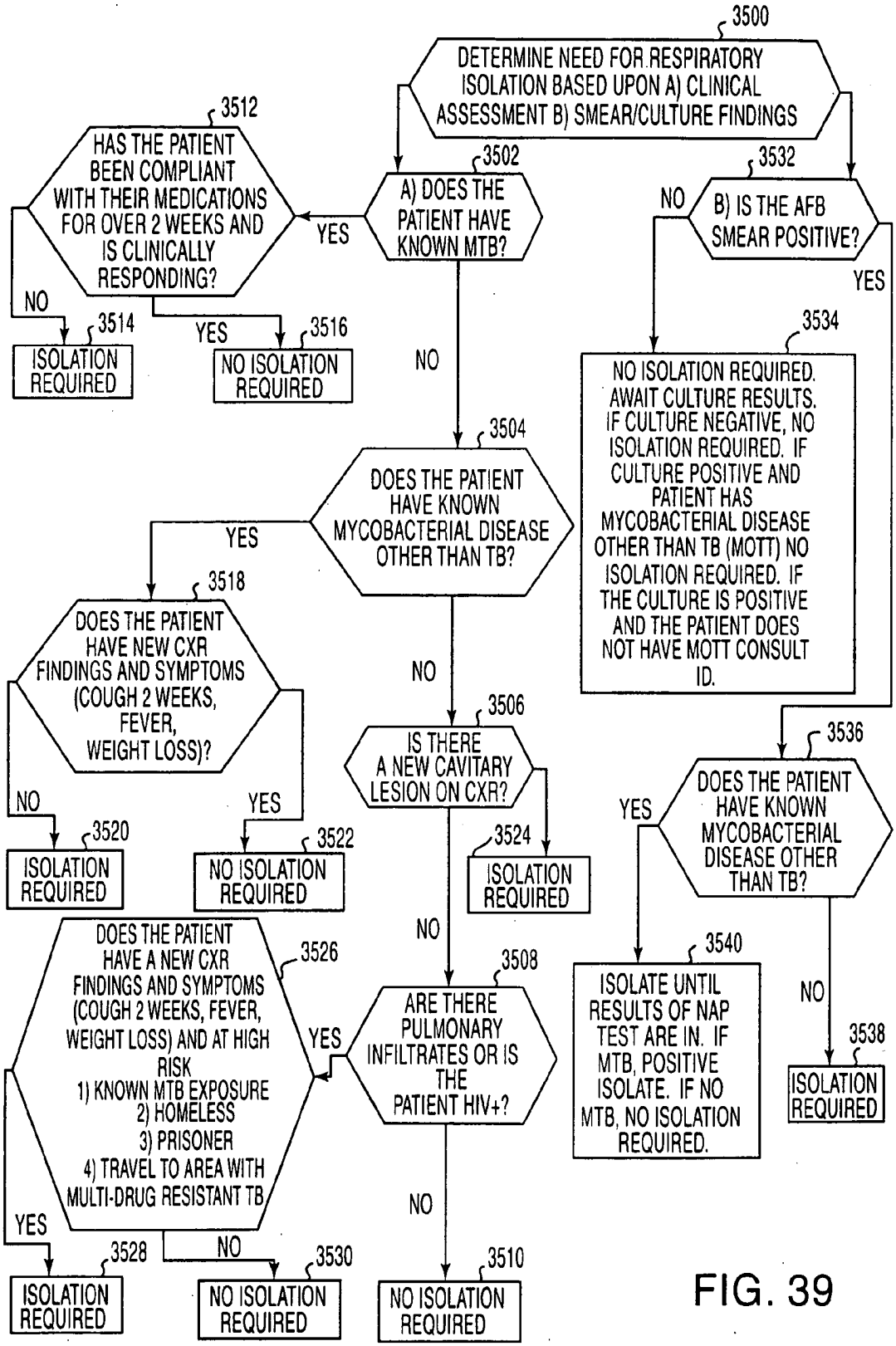

3500
DETERMINE NEED FOR RESPIRATORY ISOLATION BASED UPON A) CLINICAL ASSESSMENT B) SMEAR/CULTURE FINDINGS
3502
A) DOES THE PATIENT HAVE KNOWN MTB?
YES
3512
HAS THE PATIENT BEEN COMPLIANT WITH THEIR MEDICATIONS FOR OVER 2 WEEKS AND IS CLINICALLY RESPONDING?
NO
3514
ISOLATION REQUIRED
YES
3516
NO ISOLATION REQUIRED
NO
3532
B) IS THE AFB SMEAR POSITIVE?
NO
3534
NO ISOLATION REQUIRED. AWAIT CULTURE RESULTS. IF CULTURE NEGATIVE, NO ISOLATION REQUIRED. IF CULTURE POSITIVE AND PATIENT HAS MYCOBACTERIAL DISEASE OTHER THAN TB (MOTT) NO ISOLATION REQUIRED. IF THE CULTURE IS POSITIVE AND THE PATIENT DOES NOT HAVE MOTT CONSULT ID.
YES
3536
DOES THE PATIENT HAVE KNOWN MYCOBACTERIAL DISEASE OTHER THAN TB?
YES
3540
ISOLATE UNTIL RESULTS OF NAP TEST ARE IN. IF MTB, POSITIVE ISOLATE. IF NO MTB, NO ISOLATION REQUIRED.
NO
3538
ISOLATION REQUIRED
NO
3504
DOES THE PATIENT HAVE KNOWN MYCOBACTERIAL DISEASE OTHER THAN TB?
YES
3518
DOES THE PATIENT HAVE NEW CXR FINDINGS AND SYMPTOMS (COUGH 2 WEEKS, FEVER, WEIGHT LOSS)?
NO
3520
ISOLATION REQUIRED
YES
3522
NO ISOLATION REQUIRED
NO
3506
IS THERE A NEW CAVITARY LESION ON CXR?
YES
3524
ISOLATION REQUIRED
NO
3508
ARE THERE PULMONARY INFILTRATES OR IS THE PATIENT HIV+?
YES
3526
DOES THE PATIENT HAVE A NEW CXR FINDINGS AND SYMPTOMS (COUGH 2 WEEKS, FEVER, WEIGHT LOSS) AND AT HIGH RISK
1) KNOWN MTB EXPOSURE
2) HOMELESS
3) PRISONER
4) TRAVEL TO AREA WITH MULTI-DRUG RESISTANT TB
YES
3528
ISOLATION REQUIRED
NO
3530
NO ISOLATION REQUIRED
NO
3510
NO ISOLATION REQUIRED

FIG. 39

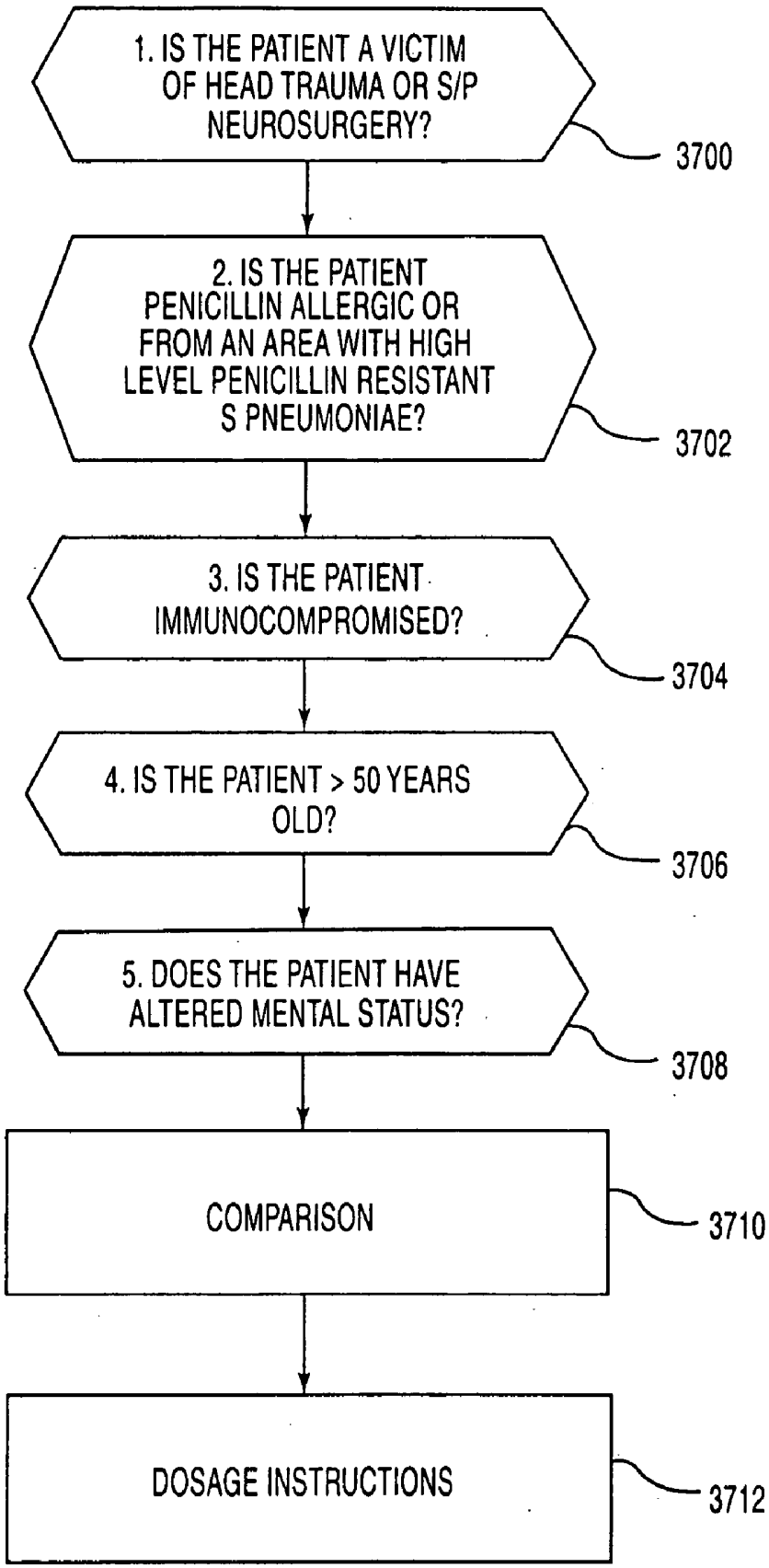

1. IS THE PATIENT A VICTIM OF HEAD TRAUMA OR S/P NEUROSURGERY?
3700
2. IS THE PATIENT PENICILLIN ALLERGIC OR FROM AN AREA WITH HIGH LEVEL PENICILLIN RESISTANT S PNEUMONIAE?
3702
3. IS THE PATIENT IMMUNOCOMPROMISED?
3704
4. IS THE PATIENT > 50 YEARS OLD?
3706
5. DOES THE PATIENT HAVE ALTERED MENTAL STATUS?
3708
COMPARISON
3710
DOSAGE INSTRUCTIONS
3712

FIG. 40

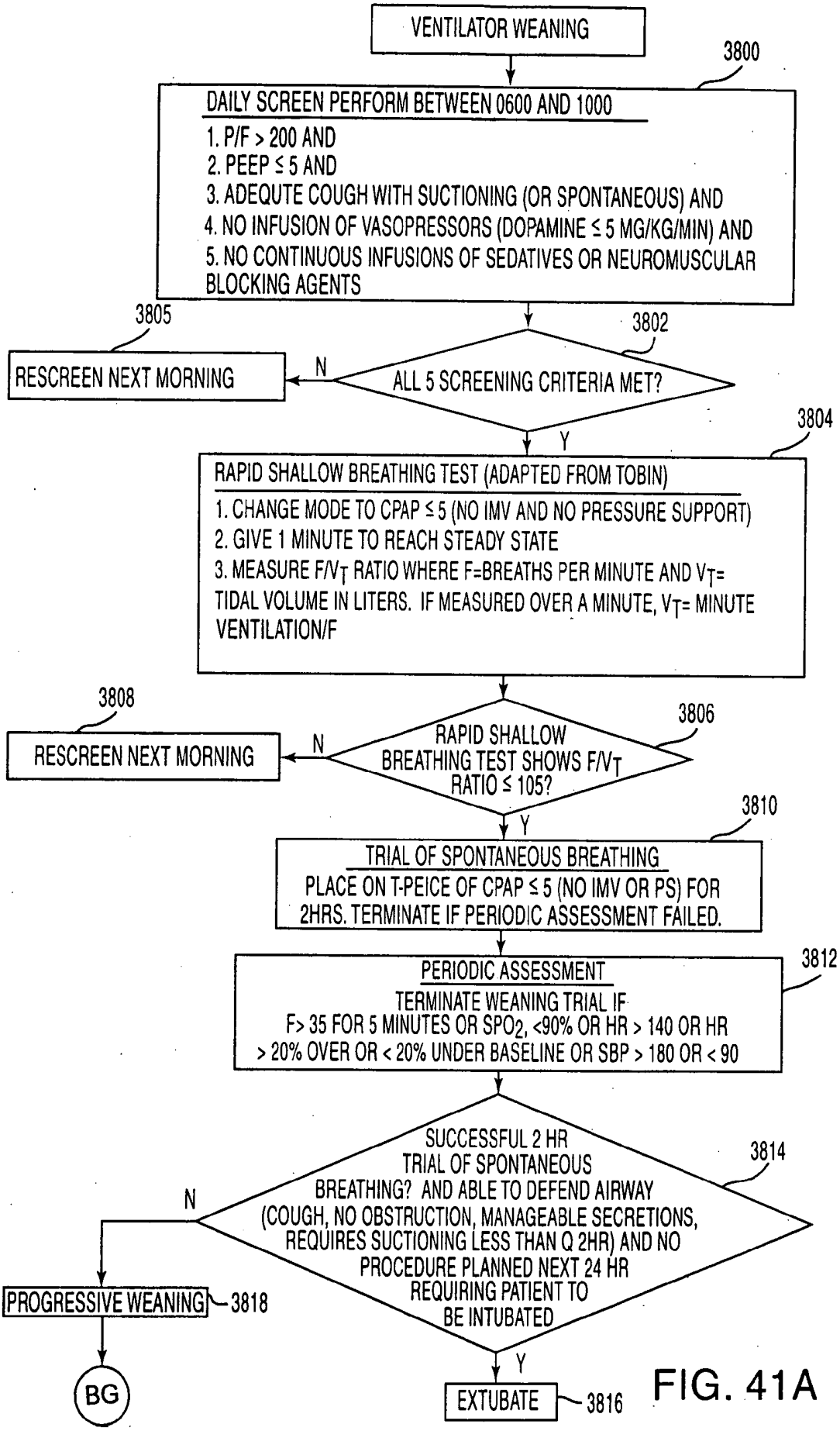

VENTILATOR WEANING
3800
DAILY SCREEN PERFORM BETWEEN 0600 AND 1000
1. P/F > 200 AND
2. PEEP ≤ 5 AND
3. ADEQUTE COUGH WITH SUCTIONING (OR SPONTANEOUS) AND
4. NO INFUSION OF VASOPRESSORS (DOPAMINE ≤ 5 MG/KG/MIN) AND
5. NO CONTINUOUS INFUSIONS OF SEDATIVES OR NEUROMUSCULAR BLOCKING AGENTS
3805
RESCREEN NEXT MORNING
N
3802
ALL 5 SCREENING CRITERIA MET?
Y
3804
RAPID SHALLOW BREATHING TEST (ADAPTED FROM TOBIN)
1. CHANGE MODE TO CPAP ≤ 5 (NO IMV AND NO PRESSURE SUPPORT)
2. GIVE 1 MINUTE TO REACH STEADY STATE
3. MEASURE F/VT RATIO WHERE F=BREATHS PER MINUTE AND VT= TIDAL VOLUME IN LITERS. IF MEASURED OVER A MINUTE, VT= MINUTE VENTILATION/F
3808
RESCREEN NEXT MORNING
N
3806
RAPID SHALLOW BREATHING TEST SHOWS F/VT RATIO ≤ 105?
Y
3810
TRIAL OF SPONTANEOUS BREATHING
PLACE ON T-PEICE OF CPAP ≤ 5 (NO IMV OR PS) FOR 2HRS. TERMINATE IF PERIODIC ASSESSMENT FAILED.
3812
PERIODIC ASSESSMENT
TERMINATE WEANING TRIAL IF
F> 35 FOR 5 MINUTES OR SPO2, <90% OR HR > 140 OR HR > 20% OVER OR < 20% UNDER BASELINE OR SBP > 180 OR < 90
3814
SUCCESSFUL 2 HR TRIAL OF SPONTANEOUS BREATHING? AND ABLE TO DEFEND AIRWAY (COUGH, NO OBSTRUCTION, MANAGEABLE SECRETIONS, REQUIRES SUCTIONING LESS THAN Q 2HR) AND NO PROCEDURE PLANNED NEXT 24 HR REQUIRING PATIENT TO BE INTUBATED
N
PROGRESSIVE WEANING
3818
BG
Y
EXTUBATE
3816

FIG. 41A

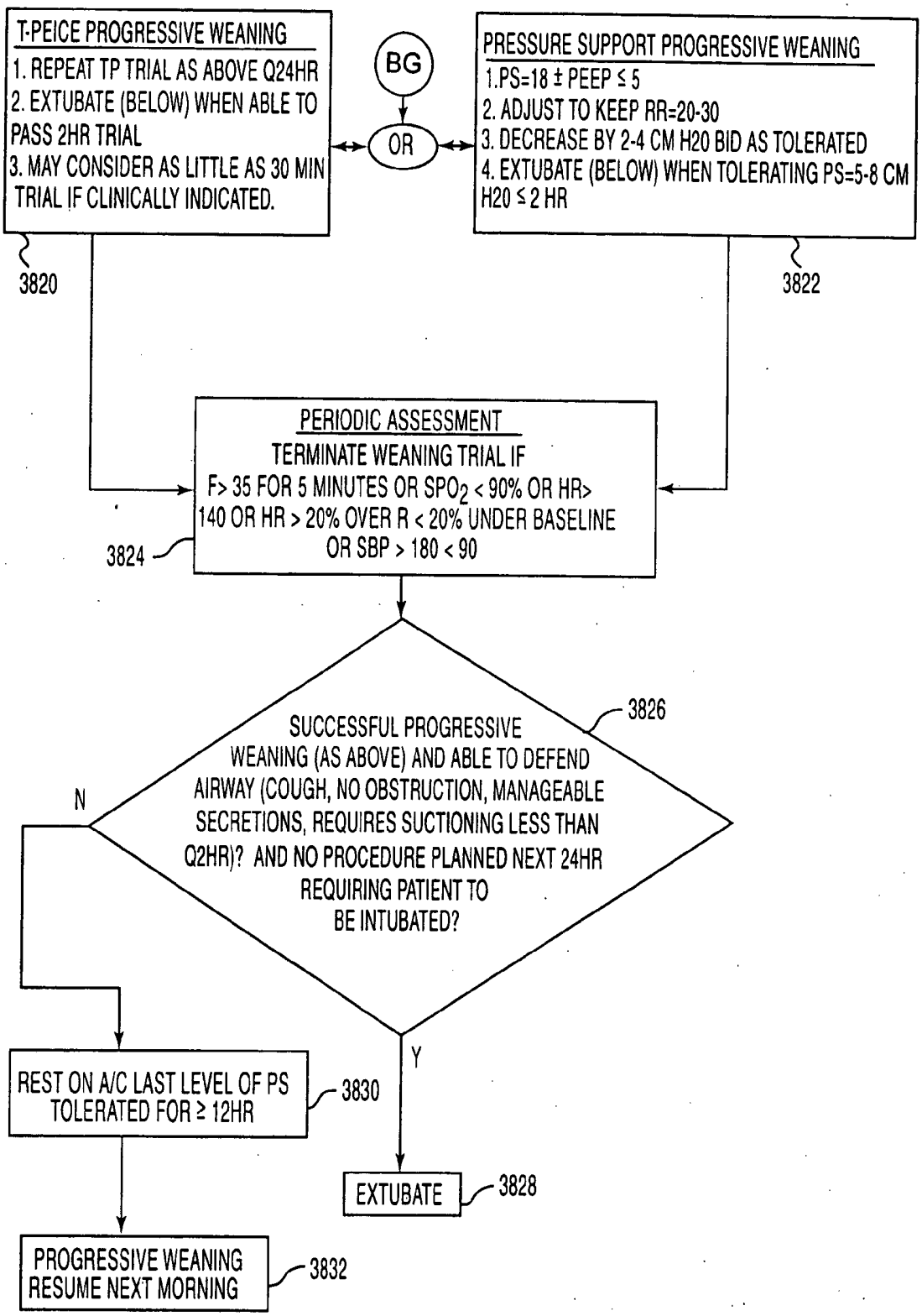

T-PEICE PROGRESSIVE WEANING
1. REPEAT TP TRIAL AS ABOVE Q24HR
2. EXTUBATE (BELOW) WHEN ABLE TO PASS 2HR TRIAL
3. MAY CONSIDER AS LITTLE AS 30 MIN TRIAL IF CLINICALLY INDICATED.
BG
OR
PRESSURE SUPPORT PROGRESSIVE WEANING
1.PS=18 ± PEEP ≤ 5
2. ADJUST TO KEEP RR=20-30
3. DECREASE BY 2-4 CM H20 BID AS TOLERATED
4. EXTUBATE (BELOW) WHEN TOLERATING PS=5-8 CM H20 ≤ 2 HR
3820
3822
PERIODIC ASSESSMENT
TERMINATE WEANING TRIAL IF
F> 35 FOR 5 MINUTES OR SPO2 < 90% OR HR> 140 OR HR > 20% OVER R < 20% UNDER BASELINE OR SBP > 180 < 90
3824
SUCCESSFUL PROGRESSIVE WEANING (AS ABOVE) AND ABLE TO DEFEND AIRWAY (COUGH, NO OBSTRUCTION, MANAGEABLE SECRETIONS, REQUIRES SUCTIONING LESS THAN Q2HR)? AND NO PROCEDURE PLANNED NEXT 24HR REQUIRING PATIENT TO BE INTUBATED?
3826
N
Y
REST ON A/C LAST LEVEL OF PS TOLERATED FOR ≥ 12HR
3830
EXTUBATE
3828
PROGRESSIVE WEANING RESUME NEXT MORNING
3832

FIG. 41B

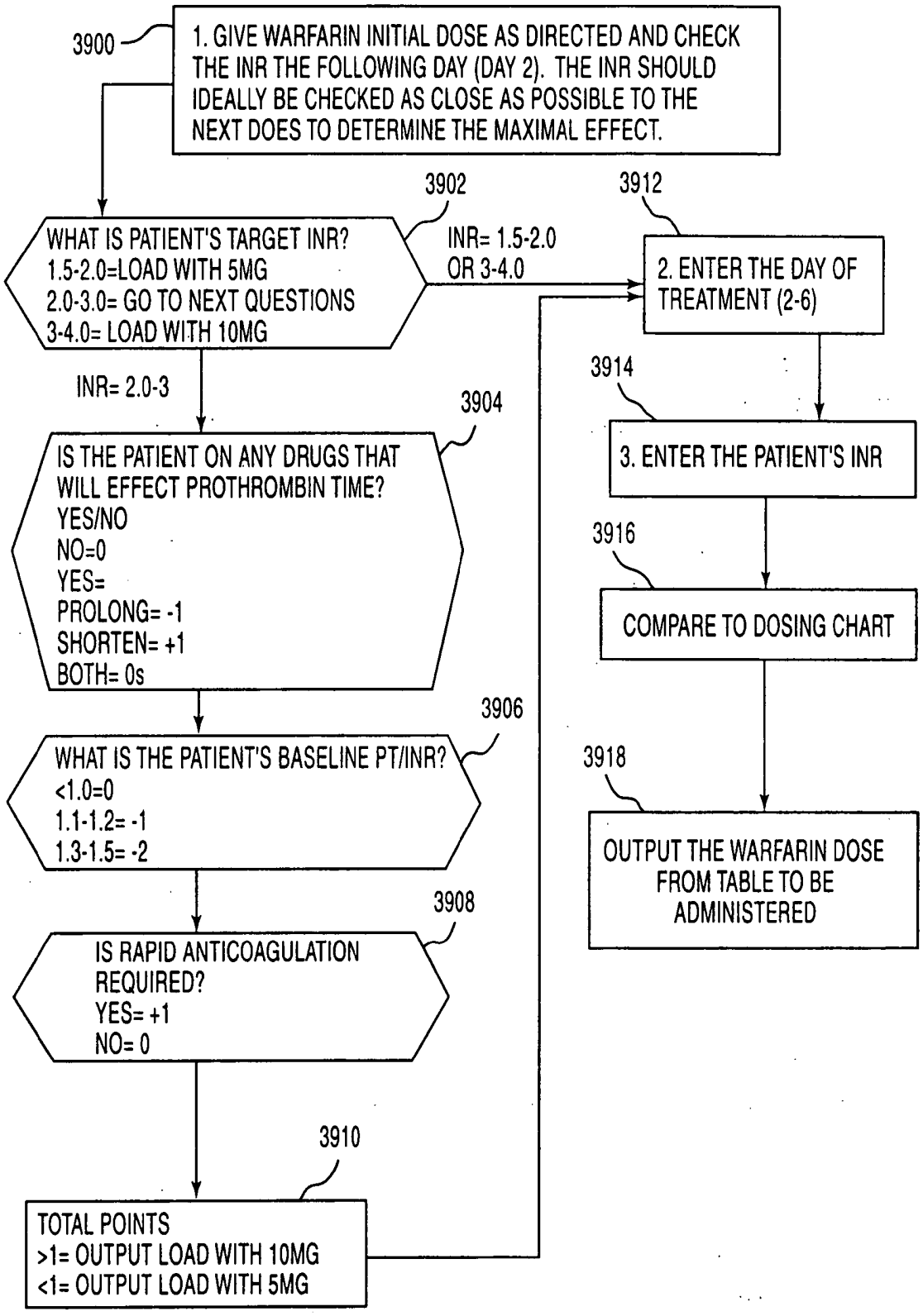

3900
1. GIVE WARFARIN INITIAL DOSE AS DIRECTED AND CHECK THE INR THE FOLLOWING DAY (DAY 2). THE INR SHOULD IDEALLY BE CHECKED AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE NEXT DOES TO DETERMINE THE MAXIMAL EFFECT.
3902
WHAT IS PATIENT'S TARGET INR?
1.5-2.0=LOAD WITH 5MG
2.0-3.0= GO TO NEXT QUESTIONS
3-4.0= LOAD WITH 10MG
INR= 1.5-2.0 OR 3-4.0
INR= 2.0-3
3904
IS THE PATIENT ON ANY DRUGS THAT WILL EFFECT PROTHROMBIN TIME?
YES/NO
NO=0
YES=
PROLONG= -1
SHORTEN= +1
BOTH= 0s
3906
WHAT IS THE PATIENT'S BASELINE PT/INR?
<1.0=0
1.1-1.2= -1
1.3-1.5= -2
3908
IS RAPID ANTICOAGULATION REQUIRED?
YES= +1
NO= 0
3910
TOTAL POINTS
>1= OUTPUT LOAD WITH 10MG
<1= OUTPUT LOAD WITH 5MG
3912
2. ENTER THE DAY OF TREATMENT (2-6)
3914
3. ENTER THE PATIENT'S INR
3916
COMPARE TO DOSING CHART
3918
OUTPUT THE WARFARIN DOSE FROM TABLE TO BE ADMINISTERED

FIG. 42

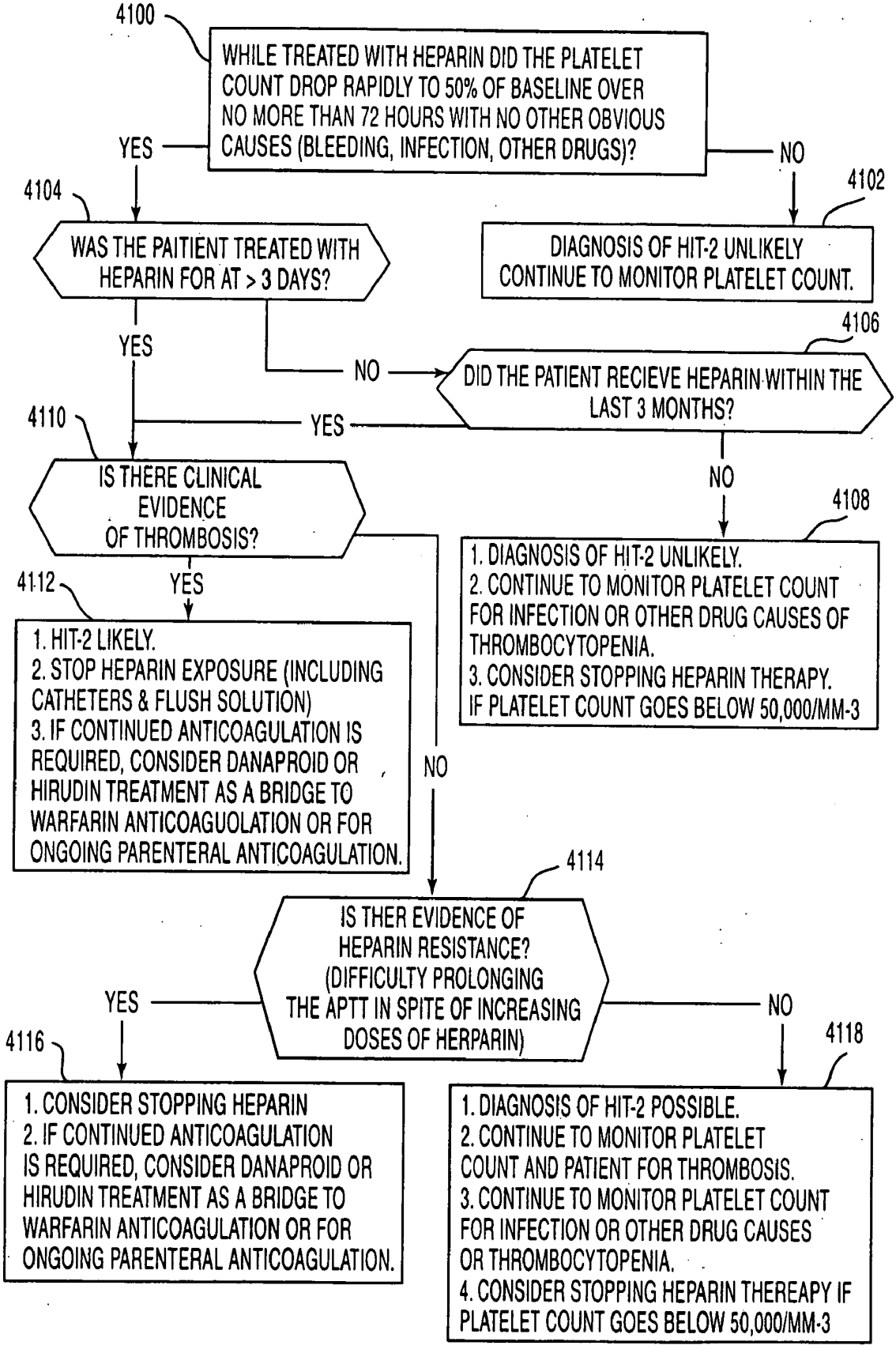

4100
WHILE TREATED WITH HEPARIN DID THE PLATELET COUNT DROP RAPIDLY TO 50% OF BASELINE OVER NO MORE THAN 72 HOURS WITH NO OTHER OBVIOUS CAUSES (BLEEDING, INFECTION, OTHER DRUGS)?
YES
NO
4102
DIAGNOSIS OF HIT-2 UNLIKELY CONTINUE TO MONITOR PLATELET COUNT.
4104
WAS THE PAITIENT TREATED WITH HEPARIN FOR AT > 3 DAYS?
YES
NO
4106
DID THE PATIENT RECIEVE HEPARIN WITHIN THE LAST 3 MONTHS?
YES
NO
4110
IS THERE CLINICAL EVIDENCE OF THROMBOSIS?
YES
NO
4108
1. DIAGNOSIS OF HIT-2 UNLIKELY.
2. CONTINUE TO MONITOR PLATELET COUNT FOR INFECTION OR OTHER DRUG CAUSES OF THROMBOCYTOPENIA.
3. CONSIDER STOPPING HEPARIN THERAPY. IF PLATELET COUNT GOES BELOW 50,000/MM-3
4112
1. HIT-2 LIKELY.
2. STOP HEPARIN EXPOSURE (INCLUDING CATHETERS & FLUSH SOLUTION)
3. IF CONTINUED ANTICOAGULATION IS REQUIRED, CONSIDER DANAPROID OR HIRUDIN TREATMENT AS A BRIDGE TO WARFARIN ANTICOAGUOLATION OR FOR ONGOING PARENTERAL ANTICOAGULATION.
4114
IS THER EVIDENCE OF HEPARIN RESISTANCE? (DIFFICULTY PROLONGING THE APTT IN SPITE OF INCREASING DOSES OF HERPARIN)
YES
NO
4116
1. CONSIDER STOPPING HEPARIN
2. IF CONTINUED ANTICOAGULATION IS REQUIRED, CONSIDER DANAPROID OR HIRUDIN TREATMENT AS A BRIDGE TO WARFARIN ANTICOAGULATION OR FOR ONGOING PARENTERAL ANTICOAGULATION.
4118
1. DIAGNOSIS OF HIT-2 POSSIBLE.
2. CONTINUE TO MONITOR PLATELET COUNT AND PATIENT FOR THROMBOSIS.
3. CONTINUE TO MONITOR PLATELET COUNT FOR INFECTION OR OTHER DRUG CAUSES OR THROMBOCYTOPENIA.
4. CONSIDER STOPPING HEPARIN THEREAPY IF PLATELET COUNT GOES BELOW 50,000/MM-3

FIG. 43

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR STANDARDIZING CARE IN A HOSPITAL ENVIRONMENT

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation of application Ser. No. 09/443,072, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,804,656, filed Nov. 18, 1999. The Ser. No. 09/443,072 application is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] This invention relates generally to the care of patients in Intensive Care Units (ICUs). More particularly this invention is a system and method for care of the critically ill that combines a real-time, multi-node telemedicine network and an integrated, patient care management system to enable specially-trained Intensivists to provide 24-hour/7-day-per-week patient monitoring and management to multiple, geographically dispersed ICUs from both on-site and remote locations.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] While the severity of illness of ICU patients over the past 15 years has increased dramatically, the level of and type of physician coverage in most ICUs has remained constant. Most ICU patients receive brief minutes of attention during morning rounds from physicians with limited critical care experience. During the remainder of the day and night, nurses are the primary caregivers, with specialists called only after patient conditions have started to deteriorate. The result of this mismatch between severity of illness and physician coverage is an unacceptably high ICU mortality rate (10% nationwide), and a high prevalence of avoidable errors that result in clinical complications. In 1998, an Institute of Medicine Roundtable determined that avoidable patient complications were the single largest problem in medical care delivery. In another prominent 1998 study of 1000 patients, 46% experienced an avoidable adverse event in care, with 40% of these errors resulting in serious disability or death.

[0004] The physicians who can remedy this situation are in critically short supply. Numerous studies have shown that Intensivists (physicians who have trained and board certified in Critical Care Medicine) can markedly improve patient outcomes. However, only one-third of all ICU patients ever has an Intensivist involved in their care, and the number of Intensivists would need to increase tenfold (nationally) to provide 24-hour coverage to all ICU patients. With the rapid aging of the population, this shortfall of expertise is going to increase dramatically.

[0005] Even where Intensivists are present (and especially where they are not), patients suffer from unnecessary variation in practice. There is little incentive for physicians to develop and conform to evidence-based best practices (it takes significant work and a change in behavior to develop and implement them). This variation contributes to suboptimal outcomes, in both the quality and cost of care delivered to ICU patients.

[0006] What is needed is a redesigning of the critical care regimen offered to patients in an ICU. Rather than the consultative model where a periodic visit takes place and the doctor then goes away, a more active 24-hour intensivist managed care is required. Further, technology that leverages the intensivists' expertise and standardizes the care afforded to patients in an ICU is required. Further, continuous feedback to improve the practice of intensivists in an ICU is necessary to provide the intervention required to minimize adverse events. This invention seeks to provide new methods for managing and delivering care to the critically ill.

[0007] Attempts to automate various aspects of patient care have been the subject of various inventions. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 5,868,669 to Iliff was issued for "Medical Diagnostic and Treatment Advice System." The disclosed invention is for a system and method for providing knowledge based medical diagnostic and treatment advice to the general public over a telephone network.

[0008] U.S. Pat. No. 5,823,948 to Ross, Jr. et al was issued for "Medical Records Documentation, Tracking and Order Entry System". The disclosed invention is for a system and method that computerizes medical records, documentation, tracking and order entries. A teleconferencing system is employed to allow patient and medical personnel to communicate with each other. A video system can be employed to videotape a patient's consent.

[0009] U.S. Pat. No. 4,878,175 to Norden-Paul et al. was issued for "Method for Generating Patient-Specific Flowsheets By Adding/Deleting Parameters." The disclosed invention is for an automated clinical records system for automated entry of bedside equipment results, such as an EKG monitor, respirator, etc. The system allows for information to be entered at the bedside using a terminal having input means and a video display.

[0010] U.S. Pat. No. 5,544,649 to David et al. was issued for "Ambulatory Patient Health Monitoring Techniques Utilizing Interactive Visual Communications." The disclosed invention is for an interactive visual system, which allows monitoring of patients at remote sites, such as the patient's home. Electronic equipment and sensors are used at the remote site to obtain data from the patient, which is sent to the monitoring site. The monitoring site can display and save the video, audio and patient's data.

[0011] U.S. Pat. No. 5,867,821 to Ballantyne et al. was issued for "Method and Apparatus for Electronically Accessing and Distributing Personal Health Care Information and Services in Hospitals and Homes." The disclosed invention is for an automated system and method for distribution and administration of medical services, entertainment services, and electronic health records for health care facilities.

[0012] U.S. Pat. No. 5,832,450 to Myers et al. issued for "Electronic Medical Record Using Text Database." The disclosed invention is for an electronic medical record system, which stores data about patient encounters arising from a content generator in freeform text.

[0013] U.S. Pat. No. 5,812,983 to Kumagai was issued for "Computer Medical File and Chart System." The disclosed invention is for a system and method which integrates and displays medical data in which a computer program links a flow sheet of a medical record to medical charts.

[0014] U.S. Pat. No. 4,489,387 to Lamb et al. was issued for "Method and Apparatus for Coordinating Medical Procedures." The disclosed invention is for a method and

apparatus that coordinates two or more medical teams to evaluate and treat a patient at the same time without repeating the same steps.

[0015] U.S. Pat. No. 4,731,725 to Suto et al. issued for "Data Processing System which Suggests a Pattern of Medical Tests to Reduce the Number of Tests Necessary to Confirm or Deny a Diagnosis." The disclosed invention is for a data processing system that uses decision trees for diagnosing a patient's symptoms to confirm or deny the patient's ailment.

[0016] U.S. Pat. No. 5,255,187 to Sorensen issued for "Computer Aided Medical Diagnostic Method and Apparatus." The disclosed invention is for an interactive diagnostic system which relies on color codes which signify the presence or absence of the possibility of a disease based on the symptoms a physician provides the system.

[0017] U.S. Pat. No. 5,553,609 to Chen et al. issued for "Intelligent Remote Visual Monitoring System for Home Health Care Service." The disclosed invention is for a computer-based remote visual monitoring system, which provides in-home patient health care from a remote location via ordinary telephone lines.

[0018] U.S. Pat. No. 5,842,978 to Levy was issued for "Supplemental Audio Visual Emergency Reviewing Apparatus and Method." The disclosed invention is for a system which videotapes a patient and superimposes the patient's vital statistics onto the videotape.

[0019] While these inventions provide useful records management and diagnostic tools, none of them provides a comprehensive method for monitoring and providing real time critical care at disparate ICUs. In short, they are NOT designed for critical care. Further, none of these inventions provide for the care of a full time intensivist backed by appropriate database and decision support assistance in the intensive care environment. What would be useful is a system and method for providing care for the critically ill that maximizes the presence of an intensivist trained in the care of the critically ill. Further such a system would standardize the care in ICUs at a high level and reduce the mortality rate of patients being cared for in ICUs.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0020] The present invention provides a core business of Continuous Expert Care Network (CXCN) solution for hospital intensive care units (ICUs). This e-solution uses network, database, and decision support technologies to provide 24-hour connectivity between Intensivists and ICUs. The improved access to clinical information and continuous expert oversight leads to reduced clinical complications, fewer medical errors, reduced mortality, reduced length of stay, and reduced overall cost per case.

[0021] The technology of the present invention as explained below can be implemented all at once or in stages. Thus the technology, as more fully explained below is available in separate components to allow for the fact that hospitals may not be able to implement all of the technology at once. Thus modular pieces (e.g. videoconferencing, vital sign monitoring with smart alarms, hand-held physician productivity tools, etc.) can be implemented, all of which can add value in a stand-alone capacity. First amongst these offerings will be an Intensivist Decision Support System, a stand-alone software application that codifies evidence-based, best practice medicine for 150 common ICU clinical scenarios. These support algorithms are explained more fully below.

[0022] The "Command Center" model, again as more fully set forth below, will ultimately give way to a more distributed remote management model where Intensivists and other physicians can access ICU patients and clinicians (voice, video, data) from their office or home. In this scenario, the present invention will be available in hospital applications that centralize ICU information, and offer physicians web-based applications that provide them with real-time connectivity to this information and to the ICUs. This access and connectivity will enable physicians to monitor and care for their patients remotely. These products will be natural extensions and adaptations of the present invention and the existing applications disclosed herein that those skilled in the art will appreciate and which do not depart from the scope of the invention as disclosed herein.

[0023] The present invention addresses these issues and shortcomings of the existing situation in intensive care, and its shortfalls via two major thrusts. First, an integrated video/voice/data network application enables continuous real-time management of ICU patients from a remote setting. Second, a client-server database application—integrated to the remote care network—provides the data analysis, data presentation, productivity tools and expert knowledge base that enables a single Intensivist to manage the care of up to 40 patients simultaneously. The combination of these two thrusts—care management from a remote location and new, technology-enhanced efficiency of Intensivist efforts—allows health care systems to economically raise the standard of care in their ICUs to one of 24.times.7 continuous Intensivist oversight.

[0024] It is therefore an object of the present invention to reduce avoidable complications in an ICU.

[0025] It is a further object of the present invention to reduce unexplained variations in resource utilization in an ICU.

[0026] It is a further objective of the present invention to mitigate the serious shortage of intensivists.

[0027] It is yet another objective of the present invention to reduce the occurrence of adverse events in an ICU.

[0028] It is a further objective of the present invention to standardize the care at a high level among ICUs.

[0029] It is yet another objective of the present invention to reduce the cost of ICU care.

[0030] It is yet another objective of the present invention to dramatically decrease the mortality in an ICU.

[0031] It is yet another objective of the present invention to bring information from the ICU to the intensivist, rather than bring the intensivist to the ICU.

[0032] It is a further objective of the present invention to combine tele-medical systems comprising two-way audio/video communication with a continuous real time feed of clinical information to enable the intensivist to oversee care within the ICU.

[0033] It is a further objective of the present invention to allow intensivists to monitor ICUs from a site remote from each individual ICU.

[0034] It is a further objective of the present invention to bring organized detailed clinical information to the intensivist, thereby providing standardized care in the ICU.

[0035] It is yet another objective of the present invention to utilize knowledge-based software to use rules, logic, and expertise to provide preliminary analysis and warnings for the intensivists.

[0036] The present invention comprises a command center/remote location, which is electronically linked to ICUs remote from the command center/remote location. The command center/remote location is manned by intensivists 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Each ICU comprises a nurse's station, to which data flows from individual beds in the ICU. Each patient in the ICU is monitored by a video camera, as well as by clinical monitors typical for the intensive care unit. These monitors provide constant real time patient information to the nurse's station, which in turn provides that information over a dedicated T-1 (high bandwidth) line to the ICU command center/remote location. As noted earlier, the command center/remote location is remote from the ICU, thereby allowing the command center/remote location to simultaneously monitor a number of patients in different ICUs remote from the command center/remote location.

[0037] At each command center/remote location, video monitors exist so that the intensivist can visually monitor patients within the ICU. Further, the intensivist can steer and zoom the video camera near each patient so that specific views of the patient may be obtained, both up close and generally. Audio links allow intensivists to talk to patients and staff at an ICU bed location and allow those individuals to converse with the intensivist.

[0038] Clinical data is constantly monitored and presented to the command center/remote location in real time so that the intensivist can not only monitor the video of the patient but also see the vital signs as transmitted from the bedside. The signals from the clinical data and video data are submitted to a relational database, which comprises 1) standardized guidelines for the care of the critically ill, 2) various algorithms to support the intensive care regimen, 3) order writing software so that knowledge-based recommendations and prescriptions for medication can be made based upon the clinical data, and 4) knowledge-based vital-sign/hemodynamic algorithms that key the intensivist to engage in early intervention to minimize adverse events.

[0039] The advantage of the present invention is that intensivists see all patients at a plurality of ICU's at all times. Further, there is a continuous proactive intensivist care of all patients within the ICU, thereby minimizing adverse events. Intervention is triggered by evidence-based data-driven feedback to the intensivist so that standardized care can be provided across a plurality of ICUs.

[0040] The economic benefits of the present invention are manifold. For the first time, 24-hour a day, seven day a week intensivist care for patients in an ICU can be obtained. Further, more timely interventions in the care of the patients can be created by the knowledge-based guidelines of the present invention, thereby minimizing complications and adverse events. This in turn will lead to a reduced mortality within the ICU, and hence, a reduced liability cost due to the dramatic reduction in avoidable errors in health care.

[0041] By providing timely interventions, the length of stay within the ICU can be greatly reduced, thereby allowing more critically ill patients to be cared for in the ICU.

[0042] In addition, by reviewing and standardizing the care afforded to patients in an ICU, a more standardized practice across a variety of ICUs can be achieved. This will lead to more cost-effective care within the ICU, and reduced ancillary cost for the care of the critically ill.

[0043] The overall architecture of the present invention comprises a "pod." The pod comprises a tele-medicine command center/remote location connected to a plurality multiple ICUs at various locations. The connection between the command center/remote location and the ICUs is via a dedicated wide-area network linking the ICUs to the command center/remote location and a team of intensivists who integrate their services to provide 24-hour, seven day a week care to all of the pod ICUs.

[0044] The pod is connected via a wide-area network using dedicated T-1 lines, for example, with redundant backup. This network provides reliable, high speed secure transmission of clinical data and video/audio signals between each patient room and the command center/remote location. The use of a T-1 line is not meant as a limitation. It is expected that more and higher bandwidth networks will become available. Such high bandwidth networks would come within the scope of the invention as well.

[0045] Each patient room is equipped with a pan/tilt/zoom video camera with audio and speaker to enable full video-conferencing capability. In addition, computer workstations are dedicated for exclusive physician use in each ICU, preferably at the nurse's station. Intensivists use the workstations to view patient information, consult decision support information, record their notes, and generate patient orders.

[0046] The patient management software used by intensivists is provided across the pod. Updates and changes made to the record are available at both the ICU and the command center/remote location for any given patient.

[0047] Each command center/remote location contains at least three workstations: one for the intensivist, one for the critical care registered nurse, and one for a clerk/administrative person.

[0048] The intensivist workstation comprises separate monitors for displaying ICU video images of patients and/or ICU personnel, output from bedside monitoring equipment, patient clinical data comprising history, notes, lab reports, etc., and decision support information. The staff at the command center/remote location are able to activate and control the cameras in each patient's room so that appropriate visual views of the patient can be generated.

[0049] Intensivists are able to switch between rooms and patients and can monitor at least two rooms simultaneously via the video screens. Patient data such as X-ray and ECG images are scanned and transmitted to the command center/remote location upon request of the intensivist.

[0050] Remote patient management is utilized in the present invention's critical care program to supplement

traditional onsite care. The rationale underlying the remote patient management of the present invention is that critically ill patients are inherently unstable and require continuous expert care that is not now offered in existing ICU monitoring regimens. Further, remote monitoring allows a single intensivist to care for patients in multiple ICU locations, thereby creating an efficiency that makes continuous care feasible.

[0051] Remote intensivist care of the present invention is proactive. Intensivists will order needed therapies and check results of tests and monitor modalities in a more timely fashion than is currently offered. Patients can be observed visually when needed using the ceiling-mounted cameras in each room.

[0052] Command center/remote location personnel communicate with ICU staff through videoconferencing and through "hot phones," which are dedicated telephones directly linked between the command center/remote location and the ICU. These communications links are used to discuss patient care issues and to communicate when a new order has been generated.

[0053] Intensivists document important events occurring during their shift in progress notes generated on the command center/remote location computer terminal.

[0054] Intensivists detect impending problems by intermittently screening patient data, including both real time and continuously stored vital sign data. Patient severity of illness determines the frequency with which each patient's data is reviewed by the intensivists.

[0055] Embodiments of the present invention provide a system for providing continuous, expert network health care services from a remote location. The system comprises a plurality of health care locations, at least one remote command center for managing healthcare at said plurality of health care locations, and at least one network. The plurality of health care locations are electronically connected to said at least one remote command center by the network. The at least one remote command center provides intensivist monitoring of the plurality of health care locations 24 hours per days seven days per week.

[0056] The remote command center further comprises a patient care management system for monitoring and treating individual patients at any of said plurality of healthcare locations. The patient care management system further comprises a data server/data warehouse for storing and analyzing data from the at least one remote command center.

[0057] Each of the plurality of health care locations further comprises patient monitoring equipment electronically connected to the at least one remote command center over the network. In another embodiment of the present invention each health care location further comprises a nurses' station electronically connected to said monitoring equipment and to the at least one remote command center over the network. In still another embodiment of the present invention, the healthcare locations comprise intensive care units (ICU's).

[0058] Optionally, the patient care management system further comprises a relational database for storing a plurality of decision support algorithms and for prompting intensivists to provide care to patients based upon any of the decision support algorithms. The algorithms are selected from the group consisting of algorithms for treating Acalculous Cholecystitis, Acute Pancreatitis Algorithms, Acute Renal Failure-Diagnosis, Acute Renal Failure-Management & Treatment, Adrenal Insufficiency. Agitation and Anxiety, Depression & Withdrawal, Aminoglycoside Dosing and Therapeutic Monitoring, an Amphotericin-B Treatment Guidelines, Analgesia, Antibiotic Classification & Costs, Antibiograms Algorithm, Antibiotic associated Colitis Algorithm, ARDS: Hemodynamic Management, ARDS: Steroid Use, ARDS: Ventilator Strategies, Asthma, Bleeding Patient, Bloodstream Infections, Blunt Cardiac Injury, Bradyarrhythmias, Brain Death, Bronchodilator Use in Ventilator Patients, Bronchoscopy & Thoracentesis Guidelines, Candiduria, Cardiogenic Shock, CardioPulmonary Resuscitation Guideline, Catheter Related Septicemia, a Catheter Replacement Strategies, Cervical Cord Injury, Congestive Heart Failure, COPD Exacerbation & Treatment, CXR (Indications), Dealing with Difficult patients and families, Diabetic Ketoacidosis, Dialysis, Diuretic Use, Drug Changes with Renal Dysfunction, Emergency Cardiac Pacing, Endocarditis Diagnosis and Treatment, Endocarditis Prophylaxis, End of Life Decisions, Endotracheal Tubes & Tracheotomy, Ethical Guidelines, Febrile Neutropenia, FUO, Fluid Resuscitation, Guillain-Barre Syndrome, Heparin, Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia, Hepatic Encephalopathy, Hepatic Failure, HIV+Patient Infections, Hypercalcemia Diagnosis and Treatment, Hyperglycemia Insulin Treatment, Hyperkalemia: Etiology & Treatment, Hypernatremia: Etiology & Treatment, Hypertensive Crisis, Hypokalemia: Etiology & Treatment, Hyponatremia: Etiology & Treatment, Hypothermia, Identification of Cervical Cord Injury, Implantable Cardio-defibrillator, Intra-Aortic Balloon Device, Intracerebral Hemorrhage, Latex Allergy, Magnesium Administration, Management of Hypotension, Inotropes, Management of Patients with Ascites, Empiric Meningitis, Meningitis, a Myasthenia Gravis, Myocardial Infarction, Myocardial Infarction with left bundle branch block, Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infections, Neuromuscular Blockers, Neuromuscular Complications of Critical Illness, Non-Infectious Causes of Fever, Non-Traumatic Coma, Noninvasive Modes of Ventilation, Nutritional Management, Obstetrical Complication, Oliguria, Open Fractures, Ophthalmic Infections, Organ Procurement Guidelines, PA Catheter Guideline and Troubleshooting, Pancreatitis, Penetrating Abdominal Injury, Penetrating Chest Injury, Penicillin Allergy, Permanent Pacemaker and Indications, Pneumonia Community Acquired, Pneumonia Hospital Acquired, Post-Op Bleeding, Post-Op Hypertension, Post-Op Management of Abdominal Post-Op Management of Carotid, Post-Op Management of Open Heart, Post-Op Management of Thoracotomy, Post-Op Myocardial Ischemia (Non-Cardiac Arrhythmias after Cardiac Surgery), Post-Op Power Weaning, Pressure Ulcers, Pulmonary Embolism Diagnosis, Pulmonary Embolism Treatment, Respiratory Isolation, Sedation, Seizure, Status Epilepticus, Stroke, Sub-Arachnoid Hemorrhage, Supra-Ventricular Tachyarrhythmia, Supra-Ventricular Tachycardia, Wide Complex QRS Tachycardia, Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, Thrombocytopenia, Thrombolytic Therapy, Transfusion Guidelines, Traumatic Brain Injury, Assessment of Sedation, Sedation, Septic Shock, Bolus Sliding, Scale Midazolam, Short Term Sedation Process, Sinusitis, SIRS, Spinal Cord Injury, Steroid Replacement Strategy, Thyroid Disease, Transplant Infection Prophylaxis, Transplant Related Infections, Treatment of

Airway Obstruction, Unknown Poisoning, Unstable Angina, Upper GI Bleeding Stress Prophylaxis, Vancomycin, Upper GI Bleeding Non-Variceal, Upper GI Bleeding Variceal, Use of Hematopoietic Growth Factors, Ventilator Weaning, Ventilator Weaning Protocol, Venous Thrombosis Diagnosis and Treatment, Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis, Ventricular Arrhythmia, Warfarin, Warfarin Dosing, and Wound Healing Strategies.

[0059] In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the patient care management system further comprises order writing software for providing knowledge-based recommendations and prescriptions for medication based upon the clinical data. In another embodiment of the present invention, the patient care management system further comprises knowledge-based vital sign/hemodynamic algorithms that prompt said intensivist to engage in early intervention.

[0060] Embodiments of the present invention provide methods for continuous expert critical care. Patients are monitored in a plurality of ICU's. Information from the patient monitoring is communicated to at least one command center over a first network. The information from the patient monitoring is received and analyzed at the command center over the first network; and guidance is provided from the command center to the plurality of ICU's to take actions regarding patient care. In another embodiment of the present invention, providing guidance from the command center further comprises an intensivist reviewing decision support algorithms that provide guidance for treating a plurality of critical care conditions. The algorithms are taken from the group consisting of algorithms for treating Acalculous Cholecystitis, Acute Pancreatitis Algorithm, Acute Renal Failure-Diagnosis, Acute Renal Failure-Management & Treatment, Adrenal Insufficiency, Agitation and Anxiety, Depression & Withdrawal, Aminoglycoside Dosing and Therapeutic Monitoring, an Amphotericin-B Treatment Guidelines, Analgesia, Antibiotic Classification & Costs, Antibiograms Algorithm, Antibiotic associated Colitis Algorithm, ARDS: Hemodynamic Management, ARDS: Steroid Use, ARDS: Ventilator Strategies, Asthma, Bleeding Patient, Bloodstream Infections, Blunt Cardiac Injury, Bradyarrhythmias, Brain Death, Bronchodilator Use in Ventilator Patients, Bronchoscopy & Thoracentesis Guidelines, Candiduria, Cardiogenic Shock, CardioPulmonary Resuscitation Guideline, Catheter Related Septicemia, a Catheter Replacement Strategies, Cervical Cord Injury, Congestive Heart Failure, COPD Exacerbation & Treatment, CXR (Indications), Dealing with Difficult patients and families, Diabetic Ketoacidosis, Dialysis, Diuretic Use, Drug Changes with Renal Dysfunction, Emergency Cardiac Pacing, Endocarditis Diagnosis and Treatment, Endocarditis Prophylaxis, End of Life Decisions, Endotracheal Tubes & Tracheotomy, Ethical Guidelines, Febrile Neutropenia, FUO, Fluid Resuscitation, Guillain-Barre Syndrome, Heparin, Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia, Hepatic Encephalopathy, Hepatic Failure, HIV+Patient Infections, Hypercalcemia Diagnosis and Treatment, Hyperglycemia Insulin Treatment, Hyperkalemia: Etiology & Treatment, Hypernatremia: Etiology & Treatment, Hypertensive Crisis, Hypokalemia: Etiology & Treatment, Hyponatremia: Etiology & Treatment, Hypothermia, Identification of Cervical Cord Injury, Implantable Cardio-defibrillator, Intra-Aortic Balloon Device, Intracerebral Hemorrhage, Latex Allergy, Magnesium Administration, Management of Hypotension, Inotropes, Management of Patients with Ascites, Empiric Meningitis, Meningitis, a Myasthenia Gravis, Myocardial Infarction, Myocardial Infarction with left bundle branch block, Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infections, Neuromuscular Blockers, Neuromuscular Complications of Critical Illness, Non-Infectious Causes of Fever, Non-Traumatic Coma, Noninvasive Modes of Ventilation, Nutritional Management, Obstetrical Complications, Oliguria, Open Fractures, Ophthalmic Infections, Organ Procurement Guidelines, PA Catheter Guideline and Troubleshooting, Pancreatitis, Penetrating Abdominal Injury, Penetrating Chest Injury, Penicillin Allergy, Permanent Pacemaker and Indications, Pneumonia Community Acquired, Pneumonia Hospital Acquired, Post-Op Bleeding, Post-Op Hypertension, Post-Op Management of Abdominal, Post-Op Management of Carotid, Post-Op Management of Open Heart, Post-Op Management of Thoracotomy, Post-Op Myocardial Ischemia, (Non-Cardiac Arrhythmias after Cardiac Surgery), Post-Op Power Weaning, Pressure Ulcers, Pulmonary Embolism Diagnosis, Pulmonary Embolism Treatment, Respiratory Isolation, Sedation, Seizure, Status Epilepticus, Stroke, Sub-Arachnoid Hemorrhage, Supra-Ventricular Tachyarrhythmia, Supra-Ventricular Tachycardia, Wide Complex QRS Tachycardia, Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, Thrombocytopenia, Thrombolytic Therapy, Transfusion Guidelines, Traumatic Brain Injury, Assessment of Sedation, Sedation, Septic Shock, Bolus Sliding Scale Midazolam, Short Term Sedation Process, Sinusitis, SIRS, Spinal Cord Injury, Steroid Replacement Strategy, Thyroid Disease, Transplant Infection Prophylaxis, Transplant Related Infections, Treatment of Airway Obstruction, Unknown Poisoning, Unstable Angina, Upper GI Bleeding Stress Prophylaxis, Vancomycin, Upper GI Bleeding Non-Variceal, Upper GI Bleeding Variceal, Use of Hematopoietic Growth Factors, Ventilator Weaning, Ventilator Weaning Protocol, Venous Thrombosis Diagnosis and Treatment, Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis, Ventricular Arrhythmia, Warfarin, Warfarin Dosing, and Wound Healing Strategies.

[0061] In another embodiment, a method further comprises a data server/data warehouse storing and analyzing patient data from the at least one command center and providing analysis in results over a second network to the at least one command center.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0062] **FIG. 1A** illustrates the logical data structure for billing, insurance and demographic information.

[0063] **FIG. 1B** illustrates the logical data structure for billing, insurance and demographic information (cont).

[0064] **FIG. 2A** illustrates the command center logical data structure.

[0065] **FIG. 2B** illustrates the command center logical data structure (cont).

[0066] **FIG. 3** illustrates the logical data structure for creating a medical history.

[0067] **FIG. 4A** illustrates the logical data structure for creating notes relating to patient treatment and diagnosis.

[0068] **FIG. 4B** illustrates the logical data structure for creating notes relating to patient treatment and diagnosis (cont).

[0069] **FIG. 4C** illustrates the logical data structure for creating notes relating to patient treatment and diagnosis (cont).

[0070] **FIG. 5** illustrates the logical data structure for entry of medical orders.

[0071] **FIG. 6A** illustrates the logical data structure for patient care, laboratory testing and diagnostic imaging.

[0072] **FIG. 6B** illustrates the logical data structure for patient care, laboratory testing and diagnostic imaging (cont).

[0073] **FIG. 7A** illustrates the logical data structure for categories of information that are permitted to be presented to intensivists and other care givers by the system.

[0074] **FIG. 8A** illustrates the logical data structure for documenting patient vital signs.

[0075] **FIG. 8B** illustrates the logical data structure for documenting patient vital signs (cont).

[0076] **FIG. 9** illustrates the distributed architecture of the present invention.

[0077] **FIG. 10** illustrates the system architecture of the present invention.

[0078] **FIG. 11** illustrates the decision support algorithm for diagnosis and treatment of pancreatitis.

[0079] **FIG. 12** illustrates the vital signs data flow.

[0080] **FIG. 13A** illustrates capture and display of diagnostic imaging.

[0081] **FIG. 13B** illustrates establishing videoconferencing in the present invention.

[0082] **FIG. 14** illustrates the physician resources order writing data interface of the present invention.

[0083] **FIG. 15** illustrates the physician resources database data interface of the present invention.

[0084] **FIG. 16** illustrates the automated coding and billing system integrated with the workflow and dataflow of the present invention.

[0085] **FIG. 17** illustrates the order writing data flow of the present invention.

[0086] **FIG. 18** illustrates the event log flow of the present invention.

[0087] **FIG. 19** illustrates the smart alarms implementation of the present invention.

[0088] **FIG. 20** illustrates the procedure note creation and line log for the present invention.

[0089] FIGS. **21**A-B illustrate the acalculous cholecystitis decision support algorithm.

[0090] **FIG. 22** illustrates the adrenal insufficiency decision support algorithm.

[0091] **FIG. 23** illustrates the blunt cardiac injury decision support algorithm.

[0092] FIGS. **24**A-B illustrate the candiduria decision support algorithm.

[0093] FIGS. **25**A-B illustrate the cervical spine injury decision support algorithm.

[0094] FIGS. **26**A-B illustrate the oliguria decision support algorithm.

[0095] FIGS. **26**C-D illustrate the oliguria decision support algorithm (cont).

[0096] **FIG. 26E** illustrates the oliguria decision support algorithm (cont).

[0097] FIGS. **27**A-B illustrate the open fractures decision support algorithm.

[0098] FIGS. **28**A-B illustrate the pancreatitis decision support algorithm.

[0099] FIGS. **29**A-B illustrate the penicillin allergy decision support algorithm.

[0100] FIGS. **30**A-B illustrate the post-op hypertension decision support algorithm.

[0101] **FIG. 31A** illustrates the pulmonary embolism decision support algorithm.

[0102] **FIG. 31B** illustrates the pulmonary embolism decision support algorithm (cont).

[0103] **FIG. 32** illustrates the seizure decision support algorithm.

[0104] FIGS. **33**A-B illustrate the SVT determination decision support algorithm.

[0105] **FIG. 33C** illustrates the SVT unstable decision support algorithm.

[0106] FIGS. **34**A-B illustrate the wide complex QRS Tachycardia decision support algorithm.

[0107] **FIG. 34C** illustrates the wide complex QRS Tachycardia decision support algorithm (cont).

[0108] **FIG. 35A** illustrates the assessment of sedation decision support algorithm.

[0109] **FIG. 35B** illustrates the assessment of sedation decision support algorithm (cont).

[0110] **FIG. 36** illustrates the bolus sliding scale midazolam decision support algorithm.

[0111] **FIG. 37** illustrates the sedation assessment algorithm decision support algorithm.

[0112] **FIG. 38** illustrates the short term sedation process, decision support algorithm.

[0113] **FIG. 39** illustrates the respiratory isolation decision support algorithm.

[0114] **FIG. 40** illustrates the empiric meningitis treatment decision support algorithm.

[0115] **FIG. 41A** illustrates the ventilator weaning decision support algorithm.

[0116] **FIG. 41B** illustrates the ventilator weaning decision support algorithm (cont).

[0117] **FIG. 42** illustrates the warfarin dosing decision support algorithm.

[0118] **FIG. 43** illustrates the HIT-2 diagnostic decision support algorithm.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND DATA

[0119] In the following Detailed Description of the Invention, a number of modules and procedures are described. For purposes of definitions, the following module definitions apply and are more fully amplified in the descriptions of the figures that follow.

[0120] Term Definitions

Following are a series of definitions for certain terms used in this specification:

[0121] Insurance carrier: This is a table of all the valid insurance carriers listed in the system of the present invention.

[0122] Patient guarantor: Provides the insurance guarantor information for a given patient.

[0123] Patient information: Provides demographic information for each patient.

[0124] Medical event date history: This contains the various disorders of the patient and the dates associated with major medical events relating to those disorders.

[0125] Medical history: Contains non-major system medical history of a patient.

[0126] Drug: Contains what medication and allergies have been identified for a patient at admission.

[0127] Address: Contains the address or addresses for a given patient.

[0128] Patient visit: There may be multiple records for any given patient, since the patient may visit the ICU on more than one occasion. This file contains a record of each visit to an ICU by a patient.

[0129] Physician-patient task: Contains the task that had been defined for each patient.

[0130] Present illness: This contains a textural description of the patient illness for the specific ICU visit.

[0131] Physical exam: This contains the information gathered as a result of a physical examination of the patient during the admission to the ICU.

[0132] Surgical fluids: This provides all the information related to the fluids provided during surgery.

[0133] Surgery: This contains all information pertaining to any surgical procedure performed on a patient while the patient is at the ICU.

[0134] Patient admit: This provides general information that needs to be gathered when a patient is admitted into the ICU.

[0135] Medical orders: This provides the general information for all types of medical orders associated with a given patient.

[0136] Daily treatment: This contains the treatment provided for a given patient on a given day.

[0137] Daily diagnosis: This contains the daily diagnosis for a given patient, which includes neurological, cardiological, pulmonary, renal, endocrinological, and any other diagnosis that may be associated with a patient.

[0138] Vital sign information is also critical to the administration of care in the ICU. A number of different modules collect information relating to patient vital signs. For example:

[0139] Patient admit: This provides the general information that needs to be gathered when a patient is admitted to the ICU

[0140] Patient visit: This contains a record of each visit to an ICU by a patient.

[0141] Patient: Provides demographic information for each patient.

[0142] Vital sign header: This contains general information related to the vital sign data for the particular patient.

[0143] Vital sign: Contains the vital sign data taken at specific intervals for a given patient.

[0144] Hospital: This contains identifying information for a particular hospital where the care is given.

[0145] ICU bed: Contains the association for identifying which beds are in a given ICU

[0146] Command center/remote location definitions and modules have also been created for the present invention to allow for the orderly storage and retrieval and entering of data. For example:

[0147] Physician-physician (such as nurses and LPN and the like): Contains the names of all of the physicians and physician extenders for the command center/remote location as well as for ICUs associated with the command center/remote location.

[0148] Communication: Contains all of the various types of communication vehicles used to contact an individual physician or physician extender.

[0149] Physician role: Contains the role a physician is playing for a given patient, (i.e., primary care, consultant, etc.)

[0150] Patient: Provides demographic information for each patient.

[0151] Command center/remote location: Provides identifying information for a particular command center/remote location.

[0152] Hospital: Contains identifying information for a particular hospital wherein an ICU is located.

[0153] ICU: Contains identifying information for an ICU at a hospital.

[0154] ICU bed: Contains the association for identifying which beds are in a given hospital.

[0155] ICU patient location: Provides the association between an ICU and a patient and identifies where a patient is located within an ICU in a particular hospital.

[0156] The order entry functionality of the present invention provides a critical service for obtaining information on the patient during admission, medical orders, and procedures provided to the patient during the ICU stay. For example:

[0157] Radiology: Contains all radiology performed on a particular patient.

[0158] Radiology results: Contains the results of each radiology test performed on the particular patient.

[0159] Drugs: Contains all relevant information for all the drugs that a patient has been administered.

[0160] Laboratory: Contains all laboratory tests ordered for a patient.

[0161] Microbiology result: Contains the results of microbiology organisms taken on a patient.

[0162] Laboratory result: Contains the results for a laboratory test ordered for a particular patient.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0163] The present invention is a system and method for remote monitoring of ICU's from a distant command center/remote location. By monitoring a plurality of ICU's remotely, intensivists can better spread their expertise over more ICU beds that heretofore achievable. The presence of 24-hour a day/7 day-per-week intensivist care dramatically decreases the mortality rates associated with ICU care.

[0164] Referring to **FIGS. 1A and 1B**, the Billing and Demographic data structure of the present invention is illustrated. Patient demographic information **9010** is collected on the particular patient. This information comprises all the typical kinds of information one would normally gather on a patient such as first name, last name, telephone number, marital status, and other types of information. Patient insurance information **9012** is collected and associated with the patient demographic information **9010**. Patient insurance information **9012** relates to information on the type of accident and related information such as employment, employer name, place of service, and other information that would relate to the accident that actually occurred (if at all) and which would have to be reported to an insurance agency. This information is associated with the patient demographic information which assigns the unique patient ID to the particular patient.

[0165] Insurance plan information **9008** is also created and stored and comprises insurance carrier ID's, the plan name, policy number, and group number. This information on the insurance plan **9008** is also associated with the patient ID and demographic information **9010**.

[0166] Physician information **9002** is also created and stored for each physician associated with the system of the present invention. Information such as first and last name, credentials, and other information concerning the physician is saved. In addition, the physician's role is identified **9004** and information concerning the physician and the physician's role is associated with the particular patient via the patient ID stored in the demographic information **9010**.

[0167] Patients are entered into the hospital by a hospital representative **9006** who has a representative ID which also is ultimately associated with the patient ID. In addition, communications data **9000** is stored concerning how a representative can be reached (cell phone, home phone etc.).

[0168] Referring now to **FIG. 1B**, the Overall Billing and Insurance data structure is illustrated. An insurance provider number **9014** is also stored in the system. Each physician is given a provider number and provider ID by each insurance company. Thus data must be stored regarding the ID that is given to a particular physician by each insurance provider. This information is also stored and can be associated ultimately with treatment of the patient.

[0169] Each patient admitted to the hospital and to the ICU has a patient visit ID associated with the patient **9017**. This visit ID has patient ID information, ICU information, admission date, and other information relevant to the specific visit. This information is illustrated in **FIG. 1B**. The visit ID **9017** is associated with the patient ID **9010** so that each visit can be tracked by patient.

[0170] Insurance carrier information **9018** is stored by the system and is associated with the insurance plan information **9008** as appropriate. Thus the particular insurance carrier with its name, address, and other identifying information **9018** is associated with the type of plan **9008** carried by the patient. The insurance carrier information **9018** together with the insurance plan information **9008** is associated with the patient via the patient ID information **9010**.

[0171] Patient address information **9020** and **9022** are collected for each individual patient and associated with the patient demographic information **9010**. If there is a patient guarantor, this information is obtained and stored with information on the guarantor **9026**. Such information as the guarantor's first and last name, date of birth, and other information is stored and is illustrated in **FIG. 1B**. Further, the guarantor's address **9024** is also collected and ultimately associated with the patient demographic information **9010**.

[0172] Referring to **FIGS. 2A and 2B**, the Command Center logical data structure is illustrated. The various information associated with demographic and insurance information is again used to manage the care and operations of the command center. Therefore, communications information **9000** is combined with physician and physician extender (i.e. nurse, LPN and the like) information **9002** and physician role **9004** to be associated with the demographic information **9010**. The patient visit information **9017** together with this information is associated with the patient's location which has a unique identifier **9030**. Each location ID has patient ID information and visit ID information associated with it.

[0173] Referring now to **FIG. 2B**, the Command Center logical data structure illustration continues. Each ICU bed has an associated location ID which comprises hospital ICU information, room number, and bed number **9038**. In addition, and as described earlier, instrumentation such as cameras are also associated with the particular patient. Therefore the camera setting **9040** will have a location ID relating to the ICU bed as well as have camera value settings and associated camera identifier information.

[0174] Each ICU bed **9038** is associated with an ICU **9032**. Each ICU has information associated with it that uniquely identifies the ICU as being associated with the particular hospital, and having particular phone numbers, fax numbers, work space addresses, and other information, that help to identify the ICU.

[0175] As noted above, each ICU is associated with a hospital **9034**. Each hospital has a unique identifier, as well as its own name, address, and other identifying information. Further, since each hospital ICU is to be coordinated through a remote command center, information on the remote com-

mand center **9036** is associated with the hospital information. Each command center has a unique ID and has associated address information stored as well.

[**0176**] Thus in the Command Center logical data structure, patient ID information **9010** is linked to a patient location **9030** which in turn is associated with an ICU bed **9038** each of which beds are uniquely associated an ICU **9032** which is associated with a hospital **9034** which in turn has the ICU managed by a command center **9036**.

[**0177**] An integral part of the system of the present invention is the recording of medical history. Referring to **FIG. 3**, the logical relationship among data elements for medial history is illustrated. Patient visit information **9017** combined with the physician-physician extender information **9002** is combined with specific note-taking information **9042**. The note information comprises the date and time the notes are taken as well as the note type. The note ID is fed information from the medical history item **9044**, which has its own unique medical ID associated with it. This information comprises medical text, category of information, and other information relevant to the medical history. As noted, this information for medical history **9044** is associated with a note ID **9042**, which in turn is associated with the patient visit and physician information **9017** and **9002**.

[**0178**] Referring to **FIGS. 4A, 4B**, and 4C, the note-keeping logical data structure of the present invention is illustrated. As noted earlier, the note ID **9042** combines information from visit ID, treating physician, and other information relating to the time the note was entered. Other information is associated with the note ID. Referring first to **FIG. 4A**, the patient visit information **9017**, is associated with the note ID **9042**. Various procedural information **9046** is kept by the system of the present invention and is associated with the visit ID **9017**. Physicians are able to create free text patient illness notations **9048** and associate them with the note **9042**. Similarly, free text information regarding functioning of the system **9050** is permitted and also associated with notes regarding the particular patient and procedure **9042**.

[**0179**] Specific notes regarding, for example, surgical procedures are also kept. Surgery notes **9054** are associated with a particular note ID and have such information as anesthesia, surgical diagnosis, elective information, and other related surgical information. Surgical fluids **9052** administered during the course of surgery are associated with the surgery information **9054**. Additionally, any surgical complications **9056** are noted and also associated with the surgery which in turn has an associated note ID.

[**0180**] Referring now to **FIG. 4B**, the logical data structure for notes and its description is continued. An assessment plan **9058** is created and associated with the same note ID for the particular patient. The plan has a free text field that allows a physician to create the appropriate assessment plan and associate it with a note ID **9042**.

[**0181**] Various daily notes are also kept and associated with the individual note ID **9042**. For example, the daily mental state **9060** is recorded to document the mental state of the patient. The daily treatment **9062** administered to the patient is associated with the unique note ID. The daily diagnosis **9068** is also created and associated with unique note ID **9042**.

[**0182**] Any unstable conditions are also noted **9070** and records kept of those conditions. Similarly mortality performance measures (MPM) information **9072** is kept and associated with the unique note ID. To the extent that any physical exam **9074** is administered, that physical exam and any free text created by the physician is associated with the unique ID and records kept. Allergy information **9076** for the particular patient is also created and stored along with the allergy type, and allergy name. This information is uniquely associated with the note ID. Referring now to **FIG. 4C**, the Logical Data Structure for the Notes Creation and Storage description is continued. A specific note item record **9078** is also kept and associated with unique note ID. This note item comprises the principal diagnosis, the chief complaint, the past history of the patient, the reason for the note, and various other identifications and flags of information which help in documenting the patient's condition.

[**0183**] Any drugs that are administered to the patient, including dosage, type, and number **9086** is kept and associated with the unique note ID **9042**.

[**0184**] Procedural note items are also documented **9082**. Procedural notes involve the procedural type, the principal diagnosis, the procedural location, procedural indications, and other information of a procedural nature. Procedural description information **9088** is kept as input to the procedural note item. This information is also associated with a procedural evaluation **9084** which comprises text describing the procedural evaluation that occurred, These three items, the procedural description **9088**, procedural evaluation **9084**, and procedural note items **9082**, are all uniquely associated with the note ID **9042**.

[**0185**] Referring now to **FIG. 5**, the Logical Data Structure of the Medical Order Functionality of the Present Invention is illustrated. Each medical order **9092** has a unique order ID associated with it. This information derives its uniqueness from the visit ID, the representative ID, and various information about the date in which the order was created and other such relevant information. Any non-drug orders **9090** are associated with a unique non-drug order ID. The order is classified, identified, and free text can be created by the physician to describe the order. This information in the non-drug order **9090** is associated with the unique medical order for that particular patient **9092**.

[**0186**] Again physician and physician extender identification information **9002** is also uniquely associated with the medical order to identify the physician involved in creating the particular order in question.

[**0187**] Drug orders **9094** are created each with its own unique drug order ID. Various information is collected as part of the drug order including the type of drug, the dosage, start date, frequency, stop date, to name but a few elements typical of a drug order. The drug order information **9094** is associated with the unique medical order ID **9092** assigned to that particular patient. All of the medical order information is associated with patient visit information **9017** which allows that information to be uniquely identified with a particular patient for a particular visit.

[**0188**] Referring again to **FIG. 4C**, the system is also capable of annotating and storing various log items **9080**. For example, an event log item is given a number, a patient profile item has its own number, as do neurological, cardio-

graphic, pulmonary, renal, and other events can have log items associated with them and may be used as input to any of the note taking of the present invention.

[0189] Referring to **FIGS. 6A and 6B**, the logical data structure of the patient care functionality of the present invention is illustrated. Each patient visit with its unique ID **9017** has a number of other pieced of information associated with it. For example, physician-patient tasks are tracked **9098** and have a unique task ID associated with them. The patient code status **9096** is documented and associated with the physician-patient task **9098** task ID. This information is uniquely associated with the patient visit via the the patient visit ID **9017**.

[0190] Laboratory information **9100** has a unique lab ID associated with it. That information is keyed to the visit ID and records the specimen taken, the date it was taken, and various other information germaine to the laboratory procedure involved. Other lab procedures **9102** are also documented with another unique ID. "Other" lab ID is associated with the laboratory ID **9100** which again is uniquely associated with the particular patient.

[0191] Microbiological studies **9104** are documented together with the date and the date taken and the type of study involved. Any study of microorganisms **9106** is documented with a unique microorganism ID. Micro sensitivities **9108** which record the sensitivity to microorganisms and certain antibiotics is recorded and associated with the microorganism ID **9106**. This information in turn is associated with a microbiological study **9104**, all of which is associated with the unique patient visit ID **9107**.

[0192] Respiratory studies **9101** are also recorded with unique identification numbers and a description. This information is again associated with the patient visit ID **9017**.

[0193] Referring now to **FIG. 6B**, the logical data structure of the patient care functionality of the Present Invention is further illustrated. Other organism studies **9118** are also conducted to determine any other conditions associated with microorganisms that might exist with the particular patient. This other organism information **9118** is associated with the microorganism studies **9106** which in turn is associated with the microbiology category of information of the present invention **9104**.

[0194] Various diagnostic imaging also takes place and is recorded. This image information **9114** has unique image ID associated with each image and comprises associated information such as the image type, the date performed, and other information relevant to the diagnostic imagery. The result of the image taken **9116** is also uniquely identified with the image ID and a unique image result ID. This information is associated with the image information **9114** which again is uniquely associated with the patient visit ID.

[0195] Various intake and output for the patient's biological functioning is recorded **9110**. Intake and output total **9112** is recorded and uniquely associated with the intake/output identification note **9110**. Intake/output totals **9112** also comprised the weight the total taken in, the total out, and five-day cumulative totals for biological functioning of the particular patient.

[0196] Referring to **FIG. 7**, The Logical Data Structure Concern with Reference Information for the present invention is illustrated. This data structure allows only certain ranges of data to be input by care givers into the system. This is accomplished by having categories of information **9120** each category capable of having only certain values. Similarly, each type of data **9126** associated with each category is only permitted to have certain values. This combination of Category and Type results in a Combined ID **9122** which can be used in combination with certain values **9128** to create a value and combination **9124** that can be presented to a care giver viewing and entering data. This effectively limits errors in data entry by only allowing certain values to be entered for given types of data. For example, if only milligrams of a medication are supposed to be administered, this data structure prevents a care giver from administering kilograms of material since it is not a permitted range of data entry. The "nextkey" function **9027** is the function that keeps track of the ID's that are given during the administration of the present invention. This function insures that only unique ID's are given and that no identical ID's are given to two different patients for example.

[0197] Referring to **FIG. 8A**, the Logical Data Structure of the Vital Signs Functionality of the Present Invention is illustrated. Vital sign header information **9120** is created and uniquely associated with the visit ID for the particular patient. This header information comprises a date-time stamp combined with hospital information, medical reference numbers, and identification of the patient. Vital sign details **9122** are also created and uniquely date-time stamped and associated with the particular visit ID for the patient. This information comprises all manner of vital sign information relating to blood pressure, respiration, and other factors. Vital sign information is associated with the patient visit **9017** and the demographic information concerning the patient **9016**. Such associations of information can be the basis for later studies.

[0198] Referring to **FIG. 8B**, Additional Vital Sign Logical Data Structures are illustrated. For example, a vital sign log header **9120** is created using the unique hospital ID and medical record numbers. Other information such a patient name, and date-time stamp are also stored. Vital sign log details **9124** are created and associated with the vital sign log header **9120**. For example, blood pressure measurements, respiration, and other factors are all detailed for a particular hospital ID. It should be noted that all vital sign data is logged in and kept by the systems of the present invention. Where vital sign information is received but cannot be associated with a particular patient, such communications are noted as errors.

[0199] Vital sign error details **9126** are also recorded and associated with a particular hospital. Information and the vital sign error detail also comprises heart rate, blood pressure, and other information. This information is associated with a vital sign error header **9130** which is associated with the hospital identifier and the patient first and last name and other information. Various vital sign error codes **9128** exist with the present invention and are used in association with the vital sign error detail **9126**. This information however relates to communications of vital sign data that are deemed "errors" as noted above.

[0200] Care Net patient location **9132** is recorded and associated with a particular hospital ID and location ID for the particular patient. Carenet is a proprietary product des-

ignation of Hewlett-Packard and is kept by the system of the present invention since it identifies the equipment from which measurements come. The ICU bed information **9038** is associated with the Care Net patient location **9132**.

[**0201**] Referring to **FIG. 9**, the distributed architecture of the present invention is shown. In concept, the distributed architecture comprises a headquarters component **200**, a command center/remote location **202**, and a hospital ICU **204**, which, while represented as a single hospital in this illustration, in the preferred embodiment comprises several hospital ICUs at different locations. The headquarters unit **200** comprises a database server and data warehouse functionality, together with a patient information front end. The patient information front end **206** provides patient specific information to the command center/remote location. The database server/warehouse function **208** comprises the amassed information of a wide variety of patients, in their various conditions, treatments, outcomes, and other information of a statistical nature that will assist clinicians and intensivists in treating patients in the ICU. The headquarters' function also serves to allow centralized creation of decision support algorithms and a wide variety of other treatment information that can be centrally managed and thereby standardized across a variety of command center/remote locations. Further, the database server/data warehousing functionality **208** serves to store information coming from command center/remote locations replicating that data so that, in the event of a catastrophic loss of information at the command center/remote location, the information can be duplicated at the command center/remote location once all systems are up and running.

[**0202**] At the hospital ICU **204**, each patient room **232**, **234** has a series of bedside monitors and both video and audio monitoring of each patient in the patient room. Each ICU further has a nurse's station with a video camera and monitor **230** so that videoconferencing can go on between the nurses and doctors at the nursing station and those intensivists at the command center/remote location. The monitoring equipment at the ICU is served by a monitor server **236**, which receives and coordinates the transmission of all bedside monitoring and nurses station communication with the command center/remote location. Finally, each ICU has a patient information front end **228**, which receives and transmits to the command center/remote location information concerning the identity and other characteristics of the patient.

[**0203**] Command center/remote location **202** comprises its own video capture and monitoring capability **212** in order to allow the intensivists to view the patients and information from the bedside monitoring as well as to have videoconferencing with the nursing station and with patients as the need arises. Information from the monitor server **236** at the hospital ICU is served to an HL7 (the language for transmitting hospital/patient/diagnostic data) gateway **214** to a database server **222**. In this fashion, information from the bedside monitors can be stored for current and historical analysis. Monitor front ends **216** and **218** allow technicians and command center/remote location personnel to monitor the incoming data from the patient rooms in the ICU. Information from the patient information front end **228** is provided to an application server **224**, having its own patient information front end **226** for aggregating and assembling information in the database **222** that is associated with individual patients in the ICU.

[**0204**] It is expected that there will be a great deal of concurrent hospital data that is necessary to the implementation of the present invention. It is therefore expected that there will be a legacy database system **210** having a front end **220** from which intensivists and command center/remote location personnel can retrieve legacy database information.

[**0205**] Referring to **FIG. 10**, a system architecture of one embodiment of the present invention is illustrated. Headquarters **200** comprises an application server **238**, an NT file server **240**, and Sun SPARC Enterprise **250242** and Enterprise network management system **244**, a Cisco **3600** router **246**, a Cisco **2924** switch **248**, and a hot phone **250**. The application server **238** is designed to monitor and update those applications used at the command center/remote location. The NT file server serves to monitor, store, and replicate information coming from the command center/remote locations. The SPARC Enterprise **250** server **242** is a disc storage server, for storing and serving information, such as practice guidelines, algorithms, patient information, and all matter of other information records that must be stored in order to support the present invention. As explained below, the SPARC Enterprise **250** server and other components are such as routers and switches are commonly used in the ICU, the command center/remote location, and the headquarters. For example:

[**0206**] The Cisco **3600** router is a multi-function device that combines dial access, routing, and local area network (LAN) to LAN services, as well as the multi-service integration of voice, video, and data in the same device. This is necessary, since the various command center/remote locations, headquarters, and intensive care units all must integrate and transmit video, audio, and data among the various entities.

[**0207**] The Cisco **7204** is a router which provides high speed LAN interconnect, virtual private networks, and Internet access, all of which is required for providing the communication in the network of the present invention; and

[**0208**] The Cisco **2924** switch is an autosensing fast ethernet switch, allowing networked multimedia and virtual LAN support. Multi-level security is also offered in the switch to prevent unauthorized users from gaining access and altering switch configuration. These components are also identified in the figures (below).

[**0209**] The particular commercial systems named here are given as but some examples of equipment available today. The function of these equipment is the important factor. Other similar or improved equipment can also be utilized.

[**0210**] The network management system **244** allows the entire traffic and condition of the network to be monitored and to allow maintenance to take place. The router **246** and switch **248** is used for communication with the various command center/remote locations that are served by the Headquarters component. The Headquarters component interacts via frame relay with the command center/remote location **202**.

[**0211**] Command center/remote location **202** comprises an applications server **262** for the purpose of running various

applications for the intensivists and command center/remote location staff. The NT file server **264** at the command center/remote location allows patient files, historical files, algorithms, practice standards, and guidelines, to be served to the clinicians and intensivists to assist in monitoring the patients. The Sun SPARC Enterprise **250266** is used to for storage purposes as noted above. The Enterprise network management system **268** monitors the overall health of the network of command center/remote locations and intensive care units as well as the functionality of the individual pieces of equipment within the command center/remote location. A Cisco **2924** switch **256** and Cisco **7204** router **258**, combined with the Cisco **3600** router **260** allows for point to point communication over a T1 line, with a plurality of intensive care units located remotely from the command center/remote location. Hot phones **252** and **254** allow communication with the headquarters and the intensive care unit.

[**0212**] Intensive care unit **204** comprises a Cisco **2924** switch **272** for the purpose of interfacing with the various audio-video feeds **274**, **276** from the various patient rooms and the nursing station. A local work station **280** is connected to a scanner **282** which allows data to be input, scanned, and communicated via the point to point T1 communications to the command center/remote location. Further, the workstation **280** provides for textual advice and patient orders to be delivered to the intensive care unit for execution. The intensive care unit also comprises a laser printer **284** for the printing of patient orders and other information relevant to the care of intensive care patients. Referring to **FIG. 11**, the videoconferencing/surveillance/imaging components of the present invention are illustrated. The hospital ICU **204** comprises a series of video cameras **290**, which are located in patient rooms and at the nurse's station. Control for the cameras is provided through an RS424 to RS232 converter **288**, with instructions for imaging emanating from the workstation at the command center/remote location **252** through the ICU workstation **280** through a multi-port serial controller **286**. Video feed from the video cameras **290** is provided to an audio-video switcher **292**, which in turn provides its output to the multi-port serial controller **286** for subsequent viewing at the nurse's station and at the command center/remote location. Of equal importance is a microphone feed from the patient and from the nurses. That microphone **296** provides its signal to an audio line amplifier **294**, which in turn provides an audio feed to the audio-video switcher **292**. In this way, a patient can provide information, as can nurses who are visiting the patient during the course of patient care. It is also important that information of an audio nature be fed to the intensive care unit, both to the patient rooms and to the nurse's station. To do this, the multi-port serial controller **286** provides an audio signal to a reverse audio switcher **298**, which in turn provides information to speakers **300** that are located at the nurse's station as well as at the bedside of the patients. Information to the reverse audio switcher is provided an audio amplifier **302** from information from a video code **304**, which in turn is connected to the workstation at the ICU. As noted earlier, a scanner **282** is provided, so that information can be scanned and provided to the command center/remote location **202** and a hot telephone **278** communicates with a telephone **252** at the command center/remote location.

[**0213**] Referring to **FIG. 12** the vital signs data flow is illustrated. The monitoring system at each ICU bedside comprises a monitoring system for monitoring the vital signs for the patient. The vital sign monitoring system **450** captures vital sign data **452** and transmits that vital sign data **454** using the HL7 language (the standard processing language for hospital data and information). The processor at the ICU processes the vital sign data for transmission and storage purposes and transmits that information to the remote location. Vital sign data is then loaded into the data base **458**. The data base for each individual patient is then reviewed and process rules are applied **460** to the vital sign data. These process rules relate to certain alarming conditions which, if a certain threshold is reached, provides an alarm to the intensivist on duty. The vital sign alarm **462** is then displaced to the intensivist who can then take appropriate action. A typical type of rule processing of the vital sign data might be if blood pressure remains at a certain low level for an extended period of time, or if heart rate remains high for an extended period of time. In addition a wide range of other rules are provided which will provide an audible alarm to the intensivist before a critical situation is reached.

[**0214**] In addition to the information being provided to the alarming system for the intensivist, the vital sign data **464** is also transmitted **466** into a database warehouse **468** comprising vital sign data **470** from not only the individual patient but from all of the patients being cared for in the ICU. This database warehouse provides the ability to do data mining for trends that can give rise to additional process rules and vital sign thresholding. In addition to the transmission of vital sign data **454** to the remote site, the vital sign data is displayed in real time at the ICU **472**.

[**0215**] Referring to **FIG. 13A** the diagnostic imaging interaction is illustrated. X-rays for example, are created and transmitted to the command center **472**. Additionally, the information could be ACT scan, MRI, or any other method of medical diagnostic imaging. The x-ray image is captured at the command center **474** where it is stored and in addition displayed on the image monitor **476** for the intensivist to review.

[**0216**] Referring to **FIG. 13B** the interactive video session is illustrated. A video conferencing session is established **478** regarding a particular patient in an ICU bed. Using the video cameras in each room and/or at the nurses station at the ICU, the patient and/or the nurse can be viewed **480**. On the other end of the video conferencing session is the intensivist who can then both visually and orally communicate with the patient and/or nurse **482**.

[**0217**] Referring to **FIG. 14** the physician resources and order writing data interface is illustrated. The user interface **484** allows the physicians to access physician resources **486**. These resources provide guidelines for the treatment of the critically ill. In this example the intensivist is requested to enter the antibiotic associated with colitis **488**. The system then generates a request for a fecal leukocyte test **490**. This request is translated into an order writing module **496** which results in the actual order for the test **502**. Since the order needs to be transmitted to the appropriate organization for execution, an appropriate order is generated to the microbiology laboratory **500** in this instance. The order results are then achieved **506** and the completion of the order is reported to the order writing assignment manager **496**. In addition, the order writing module **502** also results in a task list **504** of orders for various other individuals in laborato-

ries. In addition, user interface **484** allows the physician to re-enter the physician resources module at any particular location with results of the tests. These tests are then fed into the system to continue with the diagnostic algorithm processing of the patient test results **494**. The user interface also allows interaction with the resident database **498**.

[**0218**] Referring to **FIG. 15** the physician resources database data interface is illustrated. User interface **508** allows the intensivist to interact with the physician resources data base **510**. In this example, resident data base **524** which comprises the identification and background of the resident admitting the patient causes an admission diagnosis **526** to be created. In this example a diagnosis of pancreatitis is illustrated. This diagnosis of pancreatitis **522** alerts the physician resources module **510** which causes an entry for the topic pancreatitis **512**. The diagnosis algorithm for pancreatitis **514** is then retrieved and a request for an Apache II score **516** is requested. The system also requests information for operative data **528** describing what if any operations have taken place with respect to this patient, vital sign data **530**, request for laboratory information **532**, past medical history for the patient **534** and patient demographics **536**. All this information is provided to the Apache II score assignment manager **538** which assigns an Apache II score based upon weighted composite up to twenty five different variables. This Apache II score is provided to the Apache II score request module **516**. If the severity based Apache II score is greater than or equal to eight the diagnostic of the system continue **520**. If the Apache II score is less than eight, the patient is triaged to a none ICU bed **518** since the patient will not necessarily require intensive care thereby saving relatively scarce resources of the ICU for those who are truly critically ill.

[**0219**] Referring to **FIG. 16** the automated coding/billing work flow and data flow is illustrated. Clearly ICUs must be paid for the care that they give. At the outset of the visit **540** the user interface **542** allows for the input of International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD 9) diagnosis code information concerning complexity of the case, whether the patient is stable, whether the physician involved is the attending physician or consulting physician and all other manner of information required for billing purposes. In addition, resident data **544** is input such as patient demographics, insurance information, physician, guarantor, the date that the service is provided. All this information is provided to the data manager **546** which assembles the required data element for subsequent processing. The data manager sends the demographic, physician, guarantor, insurance and related information to a bill generator **548** which begins to assemble of the information to subsequently generate a bill. Clinical information is provided to the current procedural terminology (CPT) code assignment manager which assigns codes based upon the scores and user input for bill generation purposes. A history of present illness (HPI) score **560** is generated along with a review of systems (ROS) score **562**. A past, family, and/or social history (PFSH) score **564** is generated along with a score relating to the physical exam **566**. A mortality prediction model (MPM) score **568** which is a score relating to the severity of the illness is also generated. All of these various scores are provided to the CPT assignment manager **558**. Periodically information is downloaded for management reports **556**. Once all of the information for the CPT code assignment is generated that information is provided to the bill generator **548** which assembles all the data elements needed to generate a Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) **1500** claim form. The input for the bill generator is then verified **550** where the physician can disagree with code assignments return progress notes and generally review the bill. This smart processing of the HCFA **1500** claim form allows for fewer mistakes to be made. If there is any error or additional information that is required, the verification process fails the proposed claim form and information regarding that failure is provided back to the resident data for completion of any missing items. Once an invoice has been verified as having the appropriate information to be submitted the HCFA **1500** claim form is generated **554**. Additional information is written to a billing data file **552** for importation to the patient accounting system of the present invention.

[**0220**] Referring to **FIG. 17** the order writing data flow is illustrated. Order entry user interface **600** allows the intensivist to order procedures and medication to assist the patients in the ICU. For example, the intensivist can order an ECG **604**. Thereafter the order is reviewed and a digital signature relating to the intensivist is supplied **606**. Once reviewed and signed off, the order is approved **607** and sent to the data output system **610**. Thereafter the data output system prints the order to the printer in the ICU **616**. For record keeping purposes the order is exported in the HL7 language to the hospital data system **618**. In addition the data output system adds an item to the data base that will subsequently cause an intensivist to check the ECG results. This notification to the task list is provided to the database **614**. In addition, as part of the database an orders file relating to the specific patient is also kept. The fact that and ECG has been ordered is entered in the orders file for that patient.

[**0221**] In a similar fashion using the order entry user interface **600** the intensivist can order medications **602** for a patient. The medication order then is provided to an order checking system **608**. The order checking system retrieves information from the database **614** relating to allergies of the patient and medication list which includes medications which are already being administered to the patient. This allows for the order checking system to check for drug interactions. Further laboratory data is extracted from the database **614** and the order checking system checks to insure that there will be no adverse impact of the recommended dosage upon the renal function of the patient. Once the order checking system **608** is completed, the order is okayed and provided to the order review and signature module **606**. In this module the digital signature of the intensivist is affixed to the order electronically and the order is approved **607**. Thereafter it is provided to the data output system **610** where again the orders are printed for ICU and **616** and for the hospital data system. In this case, any medications that are ordered are then provided to the medications list file in the database **614** so that the complete list of all medications that are being administered to the ICU patient is current.

[**0222**] Referring to **FIG. 18** the event log is illustrated. The database **620** contains all manner of notes and data relating to the particular patient that is admitted to the ICU. For example, admission notes **622** are taken upon admission of the patient and stored in the file that is specific to that patient. Progress notes **624** are created during the patients stay within the ICU to note the progress the patient is making giving the various treatments. Procedural notes **626**

are also created by the intensivist to note what procedures have taken place and what if any events have occurred associated with those procedures. Laboratory data such as positive blood cultures are also stored in the file **628** in the database **620**. Further x-ray data **630** and abnormal CT Scan results are stored in the database.

[**0223**] The result of these individual files are then provided to an event log manager **632**. For example, admission notes might contain operations performed. Progress notes **624** might relate to the operations preformed. This information is provided to the event log manager **632**. Admission information is also input to the event log manager as are a listing of the procedures administered to the patient. To the extent there are positive blood cultures in the laboratory data **628** those are provided to the event log manager **632** as are abnormal CT scan results. All of this information is made available through the user interface **634**. Thus the event log presents in a single location key clinical information from throughout a patients stay in the ICU. The event log user interface provides caregivers with a snapshot view of all salient events since admission. All relevant data on procedures and laboratory tests, etc. are presented chronologically.

[**0224**] Referring to **FIG. 19** the smart alarms of the present invention are illustrated. The smart alarm system constantly monitors physiologic data (collected once per minute from the bedside monitors) and all other clinical information stored in the database (labs, medications, etc). The periodicity of the collection of data is stated for illustrative purposes only. It is well within the scope of the present invention to collect physiological data at more frequent time intervals. Thus, monitor **636** provides information in HL7 form to the interface engine **638**. The physiological data is then formatted by the interface engine for storage in the database **640** where all patient information is maintained. The rules engine **642** searches for patterns of data indicative of clinical deterioration.

[**0225**] One family of alarms looks for changes in vital signs over time, using pre-configured thresholds. These thresholds are patient-specific and setting/disease-specific. For example, patients with coronary artery disease can develop myocardial ischemia with relatively minor increases in heart rate. Heart rate thresholds for patients with active ischemia (e.g. those with unstable angina in a coronary care unit) are set to detect an absolute heart rate of 75 beats per minute. In contrast, patients with known coronary artery disease in a surgical ICU have alarms set to detect either an absolute heart rate of 95 beats per minute or a 20% increase in heart rate over the baseline. For this alarm, current heart rate, calculated each minute based on the median value over the preceding 5 minutes, is compared each minute to the baseline value (the median value over the preceding 4 hours). Physiologic alarms can be based on multiple variables. For example, one alarm looks for a simultaneous increase in heart rate of 25% and a decrease in blood pressure of 20%, occurring over a time interval of 2 hours. For this alarm, thresholds were initially selected based on the known association between changes in these two variables and adverse clinical events. Actual patient data were then evaluated to determine the magnitude of change in each variable that yielded the best balance between sensitivity and specificity. This process was used to set the final thresholds for the rules engine.

[**0226**] Alarms also track additional clinical data in the patient database. One alarm tracks central venous pressure and urine output, because simultaneous decreases in these two variables can indicate that a patient is developing hypovolemia. Other rules follow laboratory data (e.g. looking for need to exclude active bleeding and possibly to administer blood).

[**0227**] The purpose of the rules engine is to facilitate detection of impending problems and to automate problem detection thereby allowing for intervention before a condition reaches a crisis state.

[**0228**] Referring to **FIG. 20** the procedural note-line log is illustrated. This log allows clinicians to evaluate the likelihood that a given procedure might result in further complications. In this example presented in this **FIG. 20 a** catheter removal is illustrated. When a new catheter is inserted in a patient **648** a procedural note is created on the procedure note creation user interface **646**. The note is reviewed and a digital signature is attached to the note to associate the note with a particular intensivist **654**. The procedure is then approved and is provided to the data output system **656**. The procedural note is then printed on the printer in the ICU **658** and is exported in HL7 language to the hospital data system **660**. In addition, this also triggers a billing event and the data output system provides appropriate output to the billing module **662** to generate an invoice line item. In addition, the note is stored in the emergency medical record associated with the patient in the database **664**. In addition, the line log is updated in the database **664** to show what procedure was administrated to a patient at what time. If there is an existing catheter, that is displayed to the intensivist at the procedure note creation user interface **646**. This would show an existing catheter changed over a wire **650**. That information is provided to the line id module **652** which extracts information from the line log in the database **664**. This information results in a note being created and provided to the note review and signature module **664**. Thus the line log contains, for each patient, relevant information about all in-dwelling catheters, including type and location of the catheter, insertion date, the most recent date that the catheter was changed over a wire, and the date the catheter was removed. This information helps clinicians evaluate the likelihood that a given catheter is infected and guides its subsequent management of that procedure.

Evidence-Based Guidelines, Algorithms, and Practice Standards Decision Support Algorithms

[**0229**] In order to standardize treatment across ICUs at the highest possible level, decision support algorithms are used in the present invention. These include textural material describing the topic, scientific treatments and possible complications. This information is available in real time to assist in all types of clinical decisions from diagnosis to treatment to triage.

[**0230**] All connections among components of the present invention are presently with a high bandwidth T-1 line although this is not meant as a limitation. It is anticipated that other existing and future high bandwidth communication capabilities, both wired and wireless, as well as satellite communications will be suitable for the communications anticipated for the present invention.

[**0231**] As noted earlier, a key objective of the present invention is to standardize care and treatment across ICUs.

This is effective in the present invention by providing decision support to intensivists as well as information concerning the latest care and practice standards for any given condition. As noted in Table I below, a wide variety of conditions is noted. Each of the conditions has an associated guideline of practice standard that can be presented to the intensivist who might be faced with that particular condition in a patient. These guidelines of practice standards can be accessed at the command center/remote location or at the ICU to assist in the treatment of the patient. Thus, the general categories of cardiovascular, endocrinology, general, gastrointestinal, hematology, infectious diseases, neurology, pharmacology, pulmonary, renal, surgery, toxicology, trauma all have guidelines and practice standards associated with them.

TABLE 1

EVIDENCE-BASED GUIDELINES ALGORITHMS & PRACTICE STANDARDS DECISION SUPPORT
CARDIOVASCULAR
BRADYARRHYTHMIAS
CARDIOGENIC SHOCK
CARDIO-PULMONARY RESUSCITATION GUIDELINES
CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE
EMERGENCY CARDIAC PACING
FLUID RESUSCITATION
HYPERTENSIVE CRISIS
IMPLANTABLE CARDIO-DEFIBRILLATORS
INTRA-AORTIC BALLOON DEVICES
MAGNESIUM ADMINISTRATION IN PATIENTS
MANAGEMENT OF HYPOTENSION, INOTROPES
MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION
MI WITH LEFT BUNDLE BRANCH BLOCK
PA CATHETER GUIDELINES & TROUBLE-SHOOTING
PERMANENT PACEMAKERS & INDICATIONS
PULMONARY EMBOLISM DIAGNOSIS
PULMONARY EMBOLISM TREATMENT
SUPRA-VENTRICULAR TACHYARRHYTHMIAS
UNSTABLE ANGINA
VENOUS THROMBOEMBOLISM PROPHYLAXIS
VENOUS THROMBOSIS: DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT
VENTRICULAR ARRHYTHMIAS
ENDOCRINOLOGY
ADRENAL INSUFFICIENCY
DIABETIC KETOACIDOSIS
HYPERCALCEMIA: DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT
HYPERGLYCEMIA: INSULIN TREATMENT
STEROID REPLACEMENT STRATEGIES
THYROID DISEASE
GENERAL
DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PATIENTS AND FAMILIES
END OF LIFE DECISIONS
ETHICAL GUIDELINES
PRESSURE ULCERS
ORGAN PROCUREMENT GUIDELINES
GASTROINTESTINAL
ANTIBIOTIC ASSOCIATED COLITIS
HEPATIC ENCEPHALOPATHY
HEPATIC FAILURE
MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH ASCITES
NUTRITIONAL MANAGEMENT
ACUTE PANCREATITIS
UPPER GI BLEEDING: STRESS PROPHYLAXIS
UPPER GI BLEEDING: NON-VARICEAL
UPPER GI BLEEDING: VARICEAL

TABLE 1-continued

EVIDENCE-BASED GUIDELINES ALGORITHMS & PRACTICE STANDARDS DECISION SUPPORT
HEMATOLOGY
HEPARIN
HEPARIN-INDUCED THROMBOCYTOPENIA
THE BLEEDING PATIENT
THROMBOCYTOPENIA
THROMBOLYTIC THERAPY
TRANSFUSION GUIDELINES
USE OF HEMATOPOETIC GROWTH FACTORS
WARFARIN
INFECTIOUS DISEASES
ACALCULUS CHOLECYSTITIS
ANTIBIOGRAMS
BLOODSTREAM INFECTIONS
CANDIDURIA
CATHETER RELATED SEPTICEMIA
CATHETER REPLACEMENT STRATEGIES
ENDOCARDITIS PROPHYLAXIS
ENDOCARDITIS DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT
FEBRILE NEUTROPENIA
FUO
HIV+ PATIENT INFECTIONS
MENINGITIS
NECROTIZING SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS
NON-INFECTIOUS CAUSES OF FEVER
OPHTHALMIC INFECTIONS
PNEUMONIA, COMMUNITY ACQUIRED
PNEUMONIA, HOSPITAL ACQUIRED
SEPTIC SHOCK
SINUSITIS
SIRS
TRANSPLANT INFECTION PROPHYLAXIS
TRANSPLANT-RELATED INFECTIONS
NEUROLOGY
AGITATION, ANXIETY, DEPRESSION & WITHDRAWAL
BRAIN DEATH
GUILLAIN-BARRE SYNDROME
INTRACEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE
MYASTHENIA GRAVIS
NEUROMUSCULAR COMPLICATIONS OF CRITICAL ILLNESS
NON-TRAUMATIC COMA
SEDATION
STATUS EPILEPTICUS
STROKE
SUB-ARACHNOID HEMORRHAGE
PHARMACOLOGY
AMINOGLYCOSIDE DOSING AND THERAPEUTIC MONITORING
AMPHOTERICIN-B TREATMENT GUIDELINES
ANALGESIA
ANTIBIOTIC CLASSIFICATION & COSTS
DRUG CHANGES WITH RENAL DYSFUNCTION
PENICILLIN ALLERGY
NEUROMUSCULAR BLOCKERS
VANCOMYCIN
THERAPEUTIC DRUG MONITORING
PULMONARY
ARDS: HEMODYNAMIC MANAGEMENT
ARDS: STEROID USE
ARDS: VENTILATOR STRATEGIES
ASTHMA
BRONCHODILATOR USE IN VENTILATOR PATIENTS
BRONCHOSCOPY & THORACENTESIS GUIDELINES
COPD EXACERBATION & TREATMENT
CXR (INDICATIONS)
NONINVASIVE MODES OF VENTILATION
ENDOTRACHEAL TUBES & TRACHEOTOMY
TREATMENT OF AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION
VENTILATOR WEANING PROTOCOL

TABLE 1-continued

EVIDENCE-BASED GUIDELINES ALGORITHMS & PRACTICE STANDARDS DECISION SUPPORT
RENAL
ACUTE RENAL FAILURE: DIAGNOSIS
ACUTE RENAL FAILURE: MANAGEMENT & TREATMENT
DIALYSIS
DIURETIC USE
HYPERKALEMIA: ETIOLOGY & TREATMENT
HYPERNATREMIA: ETIOLOGY & TREATMENT
HYPOKALEMIA: ETIOLOGY & TREATMENT
HYPONATREMIA: ETIOLOGY & TREATMENT
OLIGURIA
SURGERY
OBSTETRICAL COMPLICATIQNS
DISSECTING AORTIC ANEURYSM
POST-OPERATIVE HYPERTENSION
POST-OPERATIVE MYOCARDIAL ISCHEMIA (NON-CARDIAC
ARRHYTHMIAS AFTER CARDIAC SURGERY
POST-OPERATIVE BLEEDING
POST-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF ABDOMINAL
POST-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF OPEN HEART
POST-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF THORACOTOMY
POST-OPERATIVE POWER WEANING
POST-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF CAROTID
WOUND HEALING STRATEGIES
TOXICOLOGY
ACETAMINOPHEN OVERDOSE
ANAPHYLAXIS
COCAINE TOXICITY
ALCOHOL WITHDRAWAL
HYPERTHERMIA
LATEX ALLERGY
UNKNOWN POISONING
TRAUMA
ABDOMINAL COMPARTMENT SYNDROME
BLUNT ABDOMINAL INJURY
BLUNT AORTIC INJURY
BLUNT CARDIAC INJURY
DVT PROPHYLAXIS
EXTREMITY COMPARTMENT SYNDROME
HEAD INJURY
HYPOTHERMIA
IDENTIFICATION OF CERVICAL CORD INJURY
SPINAL CORD INJURY
OPEN FRACTURES
PENETRATING ABDOMINAL INJURY
PENETRATING CHEST INJURY

[0232] Referring to FIGS. **21**A-B, the acalculous cholecystitis decision support algorithm of the present invention is illustrated. If an intensivist suspects that acalculous cholecystitis may be present, the intensivist may not be certain of all of the aspects that would be indicative of this particular condition. Therefore, the intensivist is lead through a decision support algorithm, which first causes the intensivist to determine if the patient is clinically infected, either febrile or leukocystosis **800**. If this criterion is not met, the intensivist is prompted that it is unlikely that the patient has acalculous cholecystitis **802**.

[0233] If the patient is clinically infected **800**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has had a previous cholesystectomy **804**. If patient has had a previous cholesystectomy, the intensivist is prompted that it is very unlikely that the patient has acalculous cholecystitis **806**. Alternatively, if a patient has not had a previous cholesystectomy, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has any of seven (7) risk factors, specifically: 1) Prolonged intensive care unit (ICU) stay (defined as greater than six (6) days); 2) recent surgery (particularly aortic cross clamp procedures); 3) hypotension; 4) positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) greater than ten (10) centimeters (cm); 5) transfusion greater than six (6) units of blood; 6) inability to use the gastrointestinal (GI) tract for nutrition; or 7) immunosuppresssion (AIDS, transplantation, or leukemia) **808**. If the patient has none of these seven risk factors, the intensivist is prompted that the patient probably does not have acalculous cholecystitis **810**.

[0234] If the patient has any of the seven risk factors **808**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has any of the following symptoms: right upper quadrant (RUQ) tenderness; elevated alkalinephosphatase; elevated bilirubin; or elevated livert transaminases **812**. If the patient has none of these four (4) symptoms **812**, the intensivist is prompted to consider other more likely sources of infection (see fever of unknown origin or FUO) **814**. If the infection remains undiagnosed following an alternative work-up, the intensivist is prompted to re-enter the algorithm **814**.

[0235] If the patient has any of these four (4) symptoms **812**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether alternative intra-abdominal infectious sources are more likely **816**. If alternative intra-abdominal infectious sources are not more likely, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is sufficiently stable to go for a test **826**. If the patient is sufficiently stable to go for a test, the intensivist is prompted to perform an mso4 Cholescintigraphy **836**. The normal AC is excluded **838**. If the test indicates an abnormality, the intensivist is prompted to consider a cholecystectomy or precutaneous drainage **840**. If the patient is not sufficiently stable to go for a test, the intensivist is prompted to perform a bedside ultrasound **828**. If no other infectious etiologies are identified and no abnormalities of the gall-bladder are noted but: a) the patient remains ill **830**, the intensivist is prompted to consider empiric cholecystostomy **832**. If no other infectious etiologies are identified and no abnormalities of the gall bladder are noted but: b) the patient is improving **830**, the intensivist is prompted to continue to observe the patient **834**.

[0236] If alternative intra-abdominal infectious sources are more likely **816**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is sufficiently stable to go for a test **818**. If the patient is sufficiently stable to go for a test **818**, the intensivist is prompted to perform an abdominal CT scan **820**. If no other infectious etiologies are apparent and the test: a) demonstrates abnormalities of the gall-bladder but not diagnostic; or b) no gall-bladder abnormalities are noted **822**, the intensivist is prompted to maintain continued observation of the patient **824**. Alternatively, if neither of these criteria is met **822**, the intensivist is prompted to perform an mso4 cholescintigraphy **836**. Normal AC is excluded **838**. If the test is abnormal, the intensivist is prompted to consider cholecystectomy or precutaneous drainage **840**. If the patient is not sufficiently stable to go for a test, the intensivist is prompted to perform a bedside ultrasound **828**. If no other infectious etiologies are identified and no abnormalities of the gall-bladder are noted but: a) the patient remains ill **830**, the intensivist is prompted to consider empiric cholecystostomy **832**. If no other infectious etiologies are identified and no abnormalities of the gall bladder are noted but: b) the

patient is improving **830**, the intensivist is prompted to continue to observe the patient **834**.

[**0237**] Referring to **FIG. 22**, the adrenal insufficiency decision support algorithm of the present invention is illustrated. When an intensivist suspects an adrenal problem may be presented in a patient, the intensivist may initiate the adrenal insufficiency decision support algorithm which prompts questions concerning all aspects of the condition. First the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is either hypotensive and/or has been administered pressors for forty-eight hours or longer **900**. If neither condition is met, the system advises the intensivist that it is unlikely that an adrenal problem is present **902**.

[**0238**] If one or both conditions are met, the intensivist is asked whether an obvious cause for hypotensive blood pressure or treatment with pressors are manifested, such as hypovolemia or low blood volume, myocardial dysfunction, or spinal injury **904**. If at least one of these obvious causes is present, the intensivist is alerted by the system that the underlying cause must first be treated **906**. If treatment of a suspected underlying cause is reversed, yet the hypotension or pressor need persists, the intensivist is further directed to determine whether other adrenal problems have occurred in the patient's history **908**, **910**, **912**.

[**0239**] In order to examine prior treatment issues, the intensivist is first prompted by the system to determine if the patient has been treated with steroids in the previous six months for at least a two week period **908**. Next, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has hyponatremia or hyperkalemia **910**. The intensivist is also prompted to determine whether the patient has experienced anticoagulation or become coagulopathic prior to the hypotension or pressor treatment **912**. According to the responses provided by the intensivist to the system queries or blocks **908**, **910**, and **912**, the system calculates a treatment action **914** as follows: The array of possible responses to diagnosis questions **908**, **910**, and **912** are given a Decision Code as shown in Table 1A: Adrenal Insufficiency Considerations, below.

TABLE 1A

Adrenal Insufficiency Considerations

Question 1 908	Question 2 910	Question 3 912	Decision Code
N	N	N	A
N	N	Y	A
N	Y	N	B
N	Y	Y	C
Y	Y	Y	C
Y	N	N	D
Y	Y	N	B
Y	N	Y	D
Y	Y	Y	C

[**0240**] The possible decision codes of Table 1A are as follows:

Decision Code	Treatment Action
A	Do cosyntropin stim test
B	Consider possible Adrenal Insufficiency. Give decadron 5 mg IV, so cosyntropin stim test and empirically treat with hydrocortione 50 mg IV every 8 hours until stim test results return.
C	Consider possible Adrenal Insufficiency, secondary to adrenal hemorrhage. Give decadron 5 mg IV, so cosyntropin stim test and empirically treat with hydrocortione 50 mg IV every 8 hours until stim test results return.
D	Do cosyntropin stim test, may empirically treat with hydrocortisone 25–50 mg IV every 8 hours until stim test results return

[**0241**] Besides specialized treatment actions listed in the decision codes above, the intensivist is directed to administer a cosyntropin stimulation test **914** in order to see how much cortisone the adrenal gland is producing.

[**0242**] After performing the cosyntropin stimulation test, the intensivist is prompted to enter the patient's level of cortisol before administering cosyntropin and thirty minutes afterwards **916**. The software analyzes the test results as follows: The results in Table 2, shown below, are shown as having certain decision codes A through F.

TABLE 2

Cosyntropin Stimulation Test Results

basal (A)	basal (B)	basal (C)
<15	15–20	>25
stim (D)	stim (E)	stim (F)
<5	5–10	>10

[**0243**] Depending upon the outcome of the analysis of Table 2, one of the treatment actions, shown below in Table 3, will be displayed **918**.

TABLE 3

Cosyntropin Test Result Treatment Actions

Decision Code	Treatment Action
A + D	Adrenal insufficiency diagnosed - treat with hydrocortisone 50 mg IV every 8 hours and consider endocrine consult
A + E	Probable Adrenal insufficiency - treat with hydrocortisone 25–50 mg IV every 8
B + D	hours and taper as intercurrent illness improves
A + F	Possible Adrenal insufficiency - consider treatment with
B + E	hydrocortisone 25 mg IV every 8 hours and taper as intercurrent illness improves
A + F	Adrenal insufficiency unlikely - would not treat
B + F	
C + E	
C + F	

[**0244**] Referring to **FIG. 23**, the blunt cardiac injury decision support algorithm of the present invention is illustrated. If an intensivist suspects that blunt cardiac injury may be present, the intensivist may not be certain of all aspects

that would be critical to or indicative of this particular condition. Therefore, the intensivist is lead through a decision support algorithm, which first causes the intensivist to determine whether any of seven (7) risk factors are present: 1) was thoracic impact greater than fifteen (15) mph; 2) was the steering wheel deformed; 3) was there precordial ecchymosis, contusions, or abrasions; 4) was marked precordial tenderness present; 5) was there a fractured sternum; 6) were bilateral rib/costal cartilage fractures present; 7) were thoracic spine fractures present **1000**. If none of the 7 risk factors are present, the intensivist is prompted that no further evaluation is necessary **1002**. If any of the 7 risk factors are present, the intensivist is prompted to obtain an electrocardiogram (ECG) and chest X-ray (CXR) **1004**.

[**0245**] Once the results of the ECG and CXR are obtained, the intensivist is prompted to determine: whether the ECG results are abnormal, with abnormal being defined as anything other than sinus rhythm, including ectopy and unexplained sinus tachycardia (greater than 100 beats/minute); and whether the CXR results are abnormal, with abnormal being defined as any skeletal or pulmonary injury, especially cardiac enlargement **1006**. If either the ECG or CXR is not abnormal, the intensivist is prompted that a monitored bed is unnecessary for the patient **1008**. If either the ECG or CXR is abnormal, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether there is any hemodynamic instability (hemodynamic instability being defined as the absence of hypovolemia, spinal cord injury, or sepsis) that cannot be explained by hypovolemia, spinal cord injury, or sepsis **1010**.

[**0246**] If this criterion is not met, the intensivist is prompted: that the patient should be in a monitored bed; that the ECG should be repeated at 24 hours; that, at any time, if unexplained hemodynamic instability is present, the intensivist should request a stat echo; and that, if blunt thoracic aortic injury is also suspected, a transesophogeal echocardiogram (TEE) is favored over a transthoracic echocardiogram (TTE) **1012**. Once the results of these tests are obtained, the intensivist is prompted further to determine whether ectopy, arrhythmia, or abnormality is present on the ECG **1014**. If none of these criteria are met, the intensivist is prompted that cardiac injury is excluded **1016**. If any of these criteria are met, the intensivist is prompted that he should consider monitoring the patient for an additional 24 hours **1018**.

[**0247**] If the internist determines that there is any hemodynamic instability that cannot be explained by hypovolemia, spinal cord injury, or sepsis **1010**, he is prompted: to perform a stat echo; and, if blunt thoracic aortic injury is also suspected, that a transesophogeal echocardiogram (TEE) is favored over a transthoracic echocardiogram (TTE) **1020**. Once the results of the stat echo are obtained, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the echo is abnormal with possible causes for the abnormality being: pericardial effusion (tamponade; hypokineses or akinesis (wall motion); dilatation or reduced systolic function; acute valvular dysfunction; and/or chamber rupture **1022**. If the stat echo is abnormal, the intensivist is prompted to treat as indicated for the particular cause of the abnormality **1026**. If the stat echo is not abnormal, the intensivist is prompted to continue to monitor the patient and repeat the ECG at 24 hours **1024**.

[**0248**] Once the results of the ECG are obtained, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether ectopy, arrhythmia, or abnormality are present on the ECG **1014**. If any of these criteria are not met, the intensivist is prompted that cardiac injury is excluded **1016**. If any of these criteria are met, the intensivist is prompted that he should consider monitoring the patient for an additional 24 hours **1018**.

[**0249**] Referring to FIGS. **24**A-B, the candiduria decision support algorithm, which is yet another decision support algorithm of the present invention is illustrated. In the candiduria decision support algorithm, the intensivist is presented with the criteria for diagnosing candiduria, or severe fungal infection. First, the intensivist determines whether the patient has any medical conditions that render the patient prone to fungal infections, such as diabetes, GU anatomic abnormality, renal transplant, or pyuria **1100**. If there are no such conditions, the intensivist is next prompted by the system to look for dissemination or spreading of the fungal infection **1102**. If the infection does not seem to have spread, the intensivist is prompted to change the patient's catheter and test for pyuria after twenty four hours have passed **1104**.

[**0250**] The intensivist is prompted by the system to determine whether the patient can have P.O. **1106**. If the patient can take P.O., the system next prompts the intensivist to determine whether azoles, an organic compound for inhibiting fungal growth, have been administered in the past three days to fight the infection **1108**. If azoles have been previously administered, the systemic infection diagnosis is confirmed and the intensivist is referred to the systemic amphotericin dosing algorithm **1110**. If azoles have not been previously administered, directions for the proper treatment dosage of fluconazole (a type of azole) is provided to the intensivist along with adjustments for the species of fungus found **1112**. Where the patient cannot take P.O., the intensivist is again referred to the systemic amphotericin dosing algorithm **1114**.

[**0251**] When the patient does have some condition prone to fungal infection, the intensivist is prompted to determine what other signs of dissemination are exhibited in the patient **1116**. The intensivist is prompted to see if the patient can take P.O. If the patient cannot take P.O., the intensivist is referred to the systemic amphotericin dosing algorithm **1120**. If the patient can take P.O., the intensivist is prompted to check whether azoles have been administered in the previous three days **1122**. If azoles have been administered, the systemic infection is confirmed and the intensivist is referred to the systemic amphotericin dosing algorithm **1124**. If no azoles have been administered previously, the intensivist is given instructions for administering fluconazole to treat the ftmgal infection **1126**.

[**0252**] If there is no evidence of dissemination, the intensivist is still prompted to determine whether the patient can take P.O. **1128**. Where the patient cannot take P.O., directions are provided to administer amphotericin bladder washing procedures **1130**. If the patient cannot take P.O., the intensivist is prompted to determine whether azoles have been administered in the previous three days **1132**. If azoles have been administered, the systemic infection is confirmed and the intensivist is referred to the systemic amphotericin dosing algorithm **1134**. If no azoles have been administered previously, the intensivist is given instructions for administering fluconazole to treat the fungal infection **1136**.

[**0253**] Referring to FIGS. **25**A-B, the Cervical Spine Injury decision support algorithm of the present invention is

illustrated. If an intensivist suspects that a cervical spine injury may be present, the intensivist may not be certain of all of the factors that would be indicative of this particular condition. Therefore, the intensivist is lead through a decision support algorithm, which first prompts the intensivist to determine if the patient is awake, alert, not intoxicated, and has no mental status changes **1200**. If these criteria are met, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has any neck pain **1202**. If the patient does not have any neck pain, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has any other pain which would distract from his or her neck pain **1204**. If this criterion is not met, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has any neurologic deficits **1206**. If this criterion is not met, the intensivist is prompted that a stable C-spine is present if the patient can flex, extend, move neck left/right without pain and without neck tenderness to palpitation **1208**. The intensivist is prompted further that he can remove the collar **1208**.

[**0254**] Alternatively, if the patient does have neck pain **1202**, the intensivist is prompted to order 3 x rays **1210** consisting of: 1) lateral view revealing the base of the occiput to the upper border of the first thoracic vertebra; 2) anteroposterior view revealing spinous processes of the second cervical through the first thoracic vertebra; and 3) an open mouth odontoid view revealing the lateral masses of the first cervical vertebra and entire odontoid process **1210**. If the x rays are normal the intensivist is prompted to consider extension then flexion lateral x rays; if normal he is prompted that he can remove the collar; if abnormal, he is prompted to obtain a surgical consult **1212**. If the x rays are abnormal, the intensivist is prompted to obtain a surgical consult and order a CT scan **1214**. If the x rays are indeterminate, the intensivist is prompted to order a CT scan **1216**.

[**0255**] Alternatively, if the patient has no other pain which would distract from their neck pain **1204**, the intensivistis prompted to order 3 x rays (the same types of x rays described in **1210** above with the same prompting based on normal, abnormal, or indeterminate x rays) **1218**.

[**0256**] If the patient does have neurologic deficits **1206**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the neurologic deficit is referable to the cervical spine **1226**. If this criterion is not met, the intensivist is prompted to order 3 x rays (the same types of x rays described in **1210** above with the same prompting based on normal, abnormal, or indeterminate x rays) **1218**. If the neurologic deficit is referable to the cervical spine **1226**, the intensivist is prompted that the patient should obtain immediate spine trauma surgery consult and CT or MRI (if available) **1228**.

[**0257**] Alternatively, if the intensivist determines that the patient does not pass the criteria of being awake, alert, not intoxicated and having no mental status changes **1200**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has severe head trauma **1232**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to order CT of the neck with head CT **1236**. If this criterion is not met, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has any neurologic deficit referable to the cervical spine **1234**. If the intensivist determines that the patient does have a neurologic deficit referable to the cervical spine, the intensivist is prompted that the patient should obtain immediate spine trauma surgery consult and CT or MRI (if available) **1228**. If the intensivist determines that the patient does not have a neurologic deficit referable to the cervical spine **1234**, he is prompted to order 3 x rays (the same types of x rays described in **1210** above with the same prompting based on normal, abnormal, or indeterminate x rays) **1218**.

[**0258**] Referring to **FIG. 26A**-B, the Oliguria decision support algorithm of the present invention is illustrated. If an intensivist suspects that Oliguria may be present, the intensivist may not be certain of all of the aspects that would be indicative of this particular condition. Therefore, the intensivist is lead through a decision support algorithm, which first causes the intensivist to determine if the patient is oliguric, with the criterion being passage of less than 25 cc of urine in a period of 2 hours **1300**. If this criterion is met the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is anuric (the criterion for which is passage of less than 10 cc of urine in a 2 hour period) in spite of fluid administration **1302**.

[**0259**] If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the urinary catheter is working by flushing the catheter **1304**. The intensivist is then prompted to determine whether the catheter is functioning **1306**. If the catheter is not functioning, the intensivist is prompted to replace or reposition the catheter **1308**. If the catheter is functioning, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has a history of: 1) renal stone disease; 2) abdominal, pelvic, or retroperitoneal cancer; or 3) recent pelvic or retroperitoneal surgery **1310**. If any of these criteria are met, the intensivist is prompted to perform the following actions: 1) do renal ultrasound emergently to rule out obstruction; 2) while waiting for ultrasound, administer fluid at the rate of 7-15 ml/kg of bodyweight; and 3) send urine for specific gravity determination **1312**. Based on the renal ultrasound test results, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether an obstruction is present **1314**. If an obstruction is determined to be present, the intensivist is prompted to consult a urologist immediately **1316**.

[**0260**] Alternatively, if the intensivist determines that the patient does not have a history of: 1) renal stone disease; 2) abdominal, pelvic, or retroperitoneal cancer; or 3) recent pelvic or retroperitoneal surgery **1310**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether: 1) the patient has a history of heart failure or known ejection fraction of less than 30 percent; or 2) there are rales on the physical exam **1318**.

[**0261**] Alternatively, if following the renal ultrasound test, the intensivist determines that there is no obstruction the intensivist is prompted to determine whether: 1) the patient has a history of heart failure or known ejection fraction of less than 30 percent; or 2) there are rales on the physical exam **1318**.

[**0262**] If the intensivist determines that the patient is not anuric **1302**, then the intensivist is prompted to determine whether: 1) the patient has a history of heart failure or known ejection fraction of less than 30 percent; or 2) whether there are rales on the physical examination **1318**. If neither of these criteria is met, the intensivist is prompted to administer fluids to the patient at the rate of 10-20 ml/kg of bodyweight **1320** and send the patient's urine sample for a specific gravity test **1322** as more fully described in FIGS. **26**B-C.

[**0263**] Alternatively, if the patient does: 1) have a history of heart failure or known ejection fraction less than 30

percent; or 2) there are rales on the physical exam **1318**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether there has been a chest x-ray (CXR) in the last 6 hours **1324**. If this criterion is not met, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether there has been a change in respiratory status **1326**. If there has been no change in the respiratory status, the intensivist is prompted to administer 7-15 ml of fluids per kg of bodyweight **1328** and to send the patient's urine sample for a specific gravity test.

[**0264**] Alternatively, if the intensivist determines that there has been a change in respiratory status **1326**, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) do a chest x-ray; and 2) determine whether there is evidence of edema or congestion **1334**. If there is evidence of edema or congestion **1334**, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) insert a PA catheter to measure wedge pressure and liver function to direct fluid replacement; and 2) send urine creatinine and sodium **1332**.

[**0265**] If the intensivist determines that there has been a CXR in the last 6 hours **1324**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether there is evidence of edema or congestion **1330**. If there is no evidence of edema or congestion, the intensivist is prompted to administer 7-15 ml of fluids per kg of bodyweight **1328** and send the patient's urine for a specific gravity test **1322**.

[**0266**] Alternatively, if the intensivist determines there is evidence of edema or congestion **1330**, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) insert a PA catheter to measure wedge pressure and liver function to direct fluid replacement; and 2) send urine creatinine and sodium **1332**.

[**0267**] Referring now to **FIG. 26C**-D, the oliguria algorithm description continues. Following the specific gravity test of the patient's urine, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the results indicate the specific gravity is less than 1.018. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) send blood and urine immediately to test for blood urea nitrogen (BUN), creatinine, electrolytes, and Hgb, and spot urine for creatinine, sodium, and sediment; and 2) administer 5-10 ml of fluid per kg of bodyweight **1356**. Once the results of these tests are obtained, the intensivist is prompted to determine what is the Hgb **1338**.

[**0268**] If the Hgb has increased by more than 1.5 gm/dl compared to the previous Hgb **1340**, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) administer fluids 5-10 ml/kg of bodyweight and follow the urine output closely **1342**. Following this, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the labs confirm renal failure by use of the formula FE.sub.Na=Urine Na.times.Serum Creatinine/Urine Creatinine.times.Serum Na.times.100 **1344**.

[**0269**] If the Hgb is within 1.5 gm/dl from the previous Hgb or no comparison **1352**, the intensivist is prompted to determine what is the mean blood pressure **1354**. If the mean blood pressure is determined to be within 20 percent or higher than the baseline blood pressure **1356**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the labs confirm renal failure **1344**. If the mean blood pressure is determined to be greater than 20 percent below the baseline pressure **1358**, the intensivist is prompted to give additional fluids and consider invasive hemodynamic monitoring **1360**. Following this, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the labs confirm renal failure by use of the formula FE.sub.Na=Urine Na.times.Serum Creatinine/Urine Creatinine.times.Serum Na.times.100 **1344**.

[**0270**] Alternatively if the Hgb has decreased by 1.5 gm/dl compared to the previous Hgb **1362**, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) transfuse PRBCs as needed; 2) look for source of bleeding and check PT, aPTT, & platelet count **1364**. Following this, the intensivist is prompted to determine what is the mean blood pressure **1354**. If the mean blood pressure is determined to be greater than 20 percent below the baseline pressure **1358**, the intensivist is prompted to give additional fluids and consider invasive hemodynamic monitoring **1360**. Following this, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the labs confirm renal failure by use of the formula FE.sub.Na=Urine Na.times.Serum Creatinine/Urine Creatinine.times.Serum Na.times.100 **1344**.

[**0271**] If the labs do not confirm renal failure, as indicated by FE.sub.Na.ltoreq.1 percent **1346**, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) continue to administer fluids and follow urine output; and 2) recheck creatinine in 6-12 hours **1348**.

[**0272**] Alternatively, if the labs do confirm renal failure, as indicated by FE.sub.Na>1 percent **1350**, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) place central venous pressure (CVP); 2) Assure adequate intravascular volume; 3) give trial of diuretics: 40 mg lasix IV, if no response in 1 hour, give hydrodiuril 500 mg IV, wait 20-30 minutes then give 100 mg lasix, if persistent oliguria, restrict: 1) fluids; 2) potassium & phosphate; if diuresis ensues, restrict only potassium & phosphate; in both situations, adjust all renally excreted medications; and 4) see acute renal failure **1350**.

[**0273**] Referring now to **FIG. 26E**, the oliguria algorithm description continues. Alternatively, following the specific gravity test of the patient's urine, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the results indicate the specific gravity is greater than or equal to 1.018 **1336**. If this criterion is not met **1364**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the urine is dark or tea colored **1366**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) check creatinine phospho/kinase; and 2) force fluids to induce diuresis **1368**.

[**0274**] If the intensivist determines that the urine is not dark or tea colored, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) administer 10-20 ml of fluids per kg of bodyweight; and 2) check Hgb **1370**. The intensivist is then prompted to determine what is the Hgb **1372**.

[**0275**] If the Hgb is determined to be greater than 1.5 gm/dl higher than the previous Hgb **1374**, the intensivist is directed to: 1) force fluids; and 2) continue to follow the urine output **1376**.

[**0276**] Alternatively, if the Hgb is determined to be within 1.5 gm/dl of the last Hgb or there is no Hgb for comparison **1378**, the intensivist is prompted to determine what is the mean blood pressure **1380**. If the mean blood pressure is determined to be 20 percent or higher than the baseline pressure **1382**, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) continue to administer fluids; 2) follow urine output; and 3) check creatinine in 6-12 hours **1384**. If the mean blood pressure is determined to be greater than 20 percent below the baseline pressure **1386**, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) continue to push fluids; 2) consider invasive hemodynamic monitoring; and 3) if post-op abdominal trauma, consider abdominal compartment syndrome **1388**.

[**0277**] If the Hgb is determined to be greater than 1.5 gm/dl below the previous Hgb **1390**, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) transfuse blood as needed; 2) look for

bleeding source; 3) check PT, aPPT & platelet count; 4) continue to push fluids; and 5) recheck Hgb in 1-2 hours **1392**.

[**0278**] Referring to **FIG. 27A**-B, the open fractures decision support algorithm of the present invention is illustrated. Open fractures are where bone, cartilage, or a tooth break and push through the skin surface. The intensivist is first prompted by the system to determine whether the patient has an open fracture **1500**. If one has occurred, the intensivist must then determine whether the wound is contaminated with soil, or was inflicted in a barnyard **1502** in order to address higher risk of infection. If the wound is contaminated with soil, or was inflicted in a barnyard, the intensivist is prompted to administer a high dose of penicillin to the antibiotics prescribed **1504**. The intensivist is also prompted to take several treatment steps **1506**. These treatment steps include administering tetanus prophylaxis, such an antitoxin injection, monitoring *staphylococcus aureus* until twenty-four hours after surgery, caring for the wound within six hours, and where the injury is found to be more severe during surgery, the intensivist is prompted to administer aminoglycosides for seventy two hours.

[**0279**] If the wound is not contaminated with soil, or was inflicted in a barnyard, the intensivist is next prompted to determine the severity of the wound **1508**. To do so, the intensivist must determine the length of the wound and corresponding soft tissue damage. If the wound is either less than one centimeter and clean or greater than a centimeter long without extensive soft tissue damage, the intensivist is prompted to take several treatment steps **1506** as previously described. Where the soft tissue damage is extensive or amputation has occurred, the intensivist is prompted by the system to make further determinations **1510**, **1512**, **1514** about the wound caused by the fracture. The intensivist is prompted to determine if enough soft tissue coverage is remaining for the wound to close and heal **1510**, if any arterial repair is needed **1512**, and if extensive soft tissue damage with periostitial injury, and bone exposure **1514**. If there is adequate soft tissue coverage, the intensivist is advised that risk of infection is low and directed to take treatment actions **1516**. If arterial damage requiring repair is present, the intensivist is advised by the system that risk of infection is moderate to high and given treatment instructions **1518**. Where there is soft tissue injury with periostitial stripping and bone exposure, the intensivist is alerted by the system that risk of infection is high and given treatment instructions **1520**. The treatment instructions in each case **1516**, **1518**, **1520** include administering tetanus prophylaxis, such an antitoxin injection, caring for the wound within six hours, and performing: monitoring for *staphylococcus aureus*, and administering aminoglycosides and high doses of penicillin, all for seventy two hours before and after any operative procedures.

[**0280**] If the intensivist has determined that no exposed fracture has occurred, the system next prompts the intensivist to determine whether there is any evidence of neuro-vascular damage **1522**. If there is evidence of neuro-vascular damage, the intensivist is prompted to consult with a nero-surgeon or vascular surgeon immediately **1524**. If the intensivist determines there is no evidence of neuro-vascular damage to the patient, the system next prompts the intensivist to determine whether the patient has compartment syndrome **1526**. If there is evidence of compartment syndrome seen in the patient, the intensivist is prompted to consult orthopedics right away **1528**. If there is no evidence of compartment syndrome seen in the patient, the intensivist is still prompted to consult orthopedics, but without any prompt for time sensitivity **1530**.

[**0281**] Referring to FIGS. **28**A-B, the Pancreatitis diagnostic algorithm of the present invention is illustrated. To evaluate whether a patient has pancreatitis, the intensivist is first prompted to examine whether severe epigastric abdominal pains and amylase levels three times greater than normal are present in the patient **1600**. If neither or one of the conditions is present, the intensivist is prompted to consider other causes of the abdominal pain, such as mesenteric ischemia, a perforated ulcer, intestinal obstruction, biliary colic, or an ectopic pregnancy **1602**.

[**0282**] If severe epigastric abdominal pains and amylase levels three times greater than normal are present, the intensivist is next prompted to provide the Ranson Criteria which is a criteria associated with the severity of pancreatitis and the potential outcome or prognosis at that particular level of severity, or Apache II score which is also a score associated with the severity of the disease and the potential prognosis at a particular level of the patient **1604**. If the patient has a Ranson Criteria less than three or an Apache II score of less than eight, the intensivist is prompted by the system to consider removing the patient from the Intensive Care Unit **1606**. However, if the patient has a Ranson Criteria greater than three or an Apache II score of greater than eight, the intensivist is instructed to perform an abdominal ultrasound test within twenty-four hours **1607**. If the results of the ultrasound test show a biliary obstruction, the intensivist is instructed to consider performing an ERCP to find and remove any gallstones **1608**.

[**0283**] If the abdominal ultrasound results do not show any biliary obstruction, intensivist is next prompted to perform more diagnostic tests **1610**. The intensivist is directed to perform a Dynamic IV contrast and an abdominal Tomography (CT) scan. If the intensivist does not suspect a surgical condition exists, such as a perforated ulcer, mesenteric infarction or pancreatic infection, the tests may be performed after three days have passed. If the intensivist does suspect a surgical condition exists, the tests should be performed within three days. In either case, if the patient has creatinine levels greater than or equal to 2 miligrams per dl, the intensivist should not perform the Dynamic IV contrast test.

[**0284**] Once the CT scan is performed, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether necrotizing pancreatitis is present **1612**. The intensivist is next required to determine whether the patient has improved since admission **1614**. If no improvement has been seen, the intensivist is directed to perform percutaneous fluid aspiration and do a gram stain culture the collected fluid **1616**. If the culture shows infection **1618**, the intensivist is directed to perform surgical debridement of the pancreas **1620**. If the results of the culture are sterile **1622**, the intensivist is directed to closely follow up on the patient's condition **1624** and watch for clinical deterioration **1626**. If the patient does further deteriorate, the intensivist is then instructed to perform a surgical debridement of the pancreas **1628**. If the patient does not deteriorate, the intensivist is still prompted to closely follow the patient's condition **1630**.

[0285] Where the CT scan does not show signs of necrotizing pancreatitis **1612**, the intensivist is prompted by the system to closely observe the patient **1632**. The intensivist is also prompted to check whether clinical deterioration is occurring **1634**. If no deterioration is observed, the intensivist continues to observe the patient's condition **1636**. If clinical deterioration is occurring **1634**, the intensivist is directed to perform percutaneous fluid aspiration and do a gram stain culture the collected fluid **1616**. If the culture shows infection **1618**, the intensivist is directed to order surgical debridement of the pancreas **1620**. If the results of the culture are sterile **1622**, the intensivist is directed to closely follow up on the patient's condition **1624** and watch for clinical deterioration **1626**. If the patient does further deteriorate, the intensivist is then prompted to order a surgical debridement of the pancreas **1628**. If the patient does not deteriorate, the intensivist is still directed by the system to closely follow the patient's condition **1630**.

[0286] Referring to FIGS. **29**A-B, the penicillin allergy diagnosis algorithm of the present invention is illustrated. In order to diagnose a penicillin allergy, the intensivist is first prompted to determine whether the patient has a history suggestive of previous penicillin or cephalosporin anaphylaxis **1700**. Various known reactions, including angioedema, flushing, pruritis, airway obstruction, syncope, and hypertension, are displayed for the intensivist's review. If the patient has previously had any of these reactions, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has ever taken synthetic or partially synthetic antibiotics, such as ampicillin, amoxicillin, duricef or kefzol, without any anaphylaxis symptoms **1702**. If the patient has taken synthetics without reaction, the intensivist is advised by the system that penicillin or cephalosporin may be administered **1716**. If the patient has reacted to synthetic or partially synthetic antibiotics, the intensivist is next prompted to determine whether the patient needs penicillin or cephalosporin specifically **1704**.

[0287] If the patient is not required to have penicillin or cephalosporin, the intensivist is prompted to administer the synthetic antibiotics **1706**. If the patient does need penicillin or cephalosporin, the intensivist is directed by the system to consider consulting with an allergist or immunologist and perform skin tests for reactions **1708**. Next, the intensivist is prompted to enter whether the skin test was positive **1710**. If the results are negative, the intensivist is further directed by the system to administer penicillin or cephalosporin with caution, to consider pretreatment with benadryl or prednisone to counter any reaction, and to closely monitor the patient **1712**. If the results of the skin test are positive, the intensivist is prompted by the system to perform desensitization procedures **1714**.

[0288] If the patient does not have a history suggestive of previous penicillin or cephalosporin anaphylaxis **1700**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has previously experienced skin-level reactions, such as exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens Johnson Syndrome, or Toxic Epidemial Necrolysis, when given penicillin or cephalosporin **1718**. If the patient has previously experienced one of these reactions, the intensivist is directed by the system to administer an alternative antibiotic **1720**. If the patient has not experienced one of these reactions, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether there is a history of any rash when given penicillin or cephalosporin **1722**. If the patient has not previously had a rash when given penicillin or cephalosporin, the intensivist is advised that the patient will most likely be able to take penicillin or cephalosporin **1724**.

[0289] If the patient has previously experienced a rash when given penicillin or cephalosporin, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the rash presented when the patient was given ampicillin or amoxycillin **1726**. If the rash resulted from ampicillin or amoxycillin, the intensivist is next prompted to determine whether the rash was urticarial **1728**. If the rash was not urticarial, the intensivist is advised by the system that the patient probably can take penicillin or cephalosporin, but should be closely monitored **1730**. If the rash was urticarial, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether or not the patient needs penicillin or cephalosporin **1704**.

[0290] If the patient is not required to have penicillin or cephalosporin, the intensivist is directed by the system to administer the synthetic antibiotics **1706**. If the patient does need penicillin or cephalosporin, the intensivist is directed to consider consulting with an allergist or immunologist and perform skin tests for reactions **1708**. Next, the intensivist is prompted to enter whether the skin test was positive **1710**. If the results are negative, the intensivist is further directed to administer penicillin or cephalosporin with caution, to consider pretreatment with benadryl or prednisone to counter any reaction, and to closely monitor the patient **1712**. If the results of the skin test are positive, the intensivist is directed to perform desensitization procedures **1714**.

[0291] Referring to **FIG. 30A**-B, the Post-Op Hypertension decision support algorithm of the present invention is illustrated. If an intensivist determines that there may be a possibility of post-op hypertension, the intensivist may not be certain of all aspects that would be involved in this particular condition. Therefore, the intensivist is lead through a decision support algorithm which prompts the intensivist to determine the appropriate care to be given.

[0292] Initially, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is hypertensive (BP greater than 20 percent above mean baseline) **1800**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has any of the causes of reversible hypertension: 1) hypercapnia; 2) bladder distension; 3) pain; 4) increased ICP; 5) drugs (pressors, cocaine, ketamine and chronic MAO use with indirect acting vasopressors); 6) automatic hyperreflexia; or 7) volume overload **1802**. If any of these criteria are met, the intensivist is prompted to first treat those specific etiologies and, if pressure remains high, re-enter algorithm **1804**.

[0293] Alternatively, if none of these criteria are met **1802**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is at risk of injury from post-op hypertension (i.e., vascular surgery, coronary artery disease, neurosurgery, ocular surgery, etc.) **1806**. If this criterion is not met **1806**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the BP is greater than 40 percent above mean baseline **1808**. If this criterion is not met, the intensivist is prompted that the patient may not need BP treatment **1810**.

[0294] If the BP is greater than 40 percent above the mean baseline **1808**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is in pain **1812**. If this criterion is met **1812**, the intensivist is prompted to treat pain and continue

1814. Following this prompt **1814**, the intensivist is prompted next to determine whether the patient is actively bleeding or at significant risk for post-op bleeding (i.e., "moist closure" or high drain output) **1816**. If either of these criteria is met **1816**, the intensivist is prompted to use only short acting agents including emolol and nitroprusside as needed until bleeding has abated **1818**.

[**0295**] Alternatively, if neither of these criteria is met **1816**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is tachycardic (absolute greater than 90 bpm or ((relative greater than 15 percent over baseline)) **1820**. If either of these criteria is met **1820**, the intensivist is prompted to go to Decision Table C, which is programmed for the condition of a high heart rate. If neither of these criteria is met **1820**, the intensivist is prompted to eliminate (NOT C) Table C and proceed to the next decision point **1820**.

HR ↑ Table C

	CAD	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
	RAD	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N
	↓EF	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Treatment	1ST	L	E	L	L	A	E
	2ND	E	L	A	N	N	A

[**0296**] The intensivist is prompted next to determine whether the patient is bradycardic (absolute less than 60 bpm) **1822**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to go to Decision Table B, which is programmed for the condition of a low heart rate.

HR ↓ Table B

	CAD	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
	RAD	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N
	↓EF	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Treatment	1ST	N	N	A	N	A	A
	2ND	S	S	S	H	H	H

[**0297**] If this criterion is not met, the intensivist is prompted to eliminate (NOT B) Table B and proceed to the next decision point **1822**. [Note: If NOT C and NOT B, the intensivist is prompted to go to Table A by default, i.e., If NOT C and NOT B Then A].

HR (nl) Table A

	CAD	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
	RAD	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N
	↓EF	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Treatment	1ST	L	E	A	N	A	A
	2ND	N	N	E	A	N	N

[**0298**] The intensivist is prompted next to determine, sequentially, table input values for CAD, RAD, and EF.

[**0299**] In these decision tables, the letter references have the following meanings: L=labetalol, E=esmolol, A=enalapril, N=nicardipine, H=hyrdalazine, S=nitroprusside. The reference to 1.sup.st and 2.sup.nd means that treatment should begin with the 1.sup.st drug and add or substitute the 2.sup.nd drug as needed.

[**0300**] Using the above decision tables, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has known coronary artery disease (CAD) or 3 or more risk factors for CAD **1824**. If either of these criteria is met **1824**, the intensivist is prompted to enter a "Y" or "YES" for CAD into the table selected above in **1820** and **1822**. If neither of these criteria is met, the intensivist is prompted to enter a "N" or "NO" for CAD into the table selected above in **1820** and **1822**.

[**0301**] Next, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has known reactive airway disease (RAD) **1826**. If this criterion is met **1826**, the intensivist is prompted to enter a "Y" or "YES" for RAD into the table selected above in **1820** and **1822**. If this criterion is not met, the intensivist is prompted to enter a "N" or "NO" for RAD into the table selected above in **1820** and **1822**.

[**0302**] Next, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has known EF less than 30 percent or a history of systolic heart failure **1828**. If either of these criteria is met **1828**, the intensivist is prompted to enter a "Y" or "YES" for EF into the table selected above in **1820** and **1822**. If neither of these criteria is met **1828**, the intensivist is prompted to enter a "N" or "NO" for EF into the table selected above in **1820** and **1822**.

[**0303**] Based on the table selected in **1820** and **1822** above, and the table inputs determined from 1824, 1826, and 1828, the intensivist is prompted with the proper medication to administer for the 1.sup.st and 2.sup.nd treatment.

[**0304**] If the patient is not in pain **1812**, the intensivist is prompted to employ the procedures described above in **1816**.

[**0305**] If the patient is at risk of injury from post-op hypertension **1806**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the blood pressure is greater than 40 percent above baseline **1830**. If this criterion is met **1830**, the intensivist is prompted to employ the procedures described above in **1812**.

[**0306**] Alternatively, if this criterion is not met **1830**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is in pain **1836**. If this criterion is met **1836**, the intensivist is prompted to treat pain and reevaluate following analgesia and, if still hypertensive, to continue algorithm **1838**. Following this action **1838**, the intensivist is prompted to employ the procedures described above in **1816**. If the patient is not in pain **1836**, the intensivist is prompted to employ the procedures described above in **1816**.

[**0307**] If the patient is determined not to be hypertensive **1800**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient requires their BP controlled near baseline (i.e., neurosurgery, carotid surgery, thoracic aorta surgery) **1832**. If this criterion is not met **1832**, the intensivist is prompted that the patient probably does not need treatment **1834**.

[**0308**] Alternatively, if this criterion is met **1832**, the intensivist is prompted to employ the procedures described above in **1836**.

[**0309**] Referring to **FIG. 31A**, the pulmonary embolism diagnosis algorithm is illustrated. If a pulmonary embolism

is suspected, the intensivist is first prompted to determine whether the patient is hemodynamically unstable **2900**. If the patient is hemodynamically unstable, the intensivist is directed by the system to consider performing an immediate transthoracic echocardiogram, pulmonary angiogram and treatment consistent with massive pulmonary embolism **2902**. If the patient is not hemodynamically unstable, the intensivist is prompted to perform a VQ scan and perform further assessment of the patient **2904**.

[0310] In order to further assess the patient, the intensivist is prompted to respond to a series of questions **2906**, **2908**, **2910**, **2912**. The intensivist is prompted to determine whether any of the following patient conditions are present: Dyspnea, Worsening chronic dyspnea, Pleuritic chest pain, Chest pain that is non-retro sternal & non-pleuritic, O.sub.2 saturation<92% on room air that corrects with 40% O.sub.2 supplementation, Hemoptysis, or Pleural rub **2906**. The intensivist is also prompted to determine whether any risk factors are in the patient's history, such as: Surgery within 12 weeks, Immobilization (complete bed rest) for >3 days within 4 weeks, Previous DVT or objectively diagnosed PE, Lower extremity fracture & immobilization within 12 weeks, Strong family history of DVT or PE (.gtoreq.2 family members with objective proven events or 1.sup.st degree relative with hereditary thrombophilia), Cancer (treatment within the last 6 months or palliative stages), Postpartum, or Lower extremity paralysis **2908**. Further, the intensivist must determine whether the patient has any of the following symptoms: Heart rate>90 beats/min, Temp.gtoreq.38.0, CXR free of abnormalities (edema, pneumonia, pneumothorax), or Leg symptoms c/w DVT, syncope, blood pressure less than 90 mm Hg with heart rate greater than 100 beats/min, receiving mechanical ventilation and/or oxygen supplementation greater than 40%, and new onset or right heart failure (-JVP, new S1, Q3, T3, or RBBB) **2910**. The intensivist is also queried by the system to consider alternative diagnosis that may be more likely than pulmonary embolism. To do so, the intensivist is prompted to consider conditions that simulate major pulmonary embolism, such as myocardial infarction, acute infection with COPD, septic Shock, dissecting aortic aneurysm, or occult hemorrhage. The intensivist is additionally prompted to consider conditions that simulate minor pulmonary embolism, such as acute bronchitis, pericarditis, viral pleurisy, pneumonia, and esophageal spasm **2912**.

[0311] Referring to **FIG. 31B**, the pulmonary embolism algorithm description continues. The intensivist enters the answers to the assessment queries posed **2906**, **2908**, **2910**, **2912** into the system. If two or more responses to the patient condition query **2906** were answered yes and one or more questions were answered yes from: Heart rate>90 beats/min, Temp.gtoreq.38.0, CXR free of abnormalities, or Leg symptoms c/w DVT of the symptoms query **2910**, the intensivist is informed that a typical pulmonary embolism is present **2914**. Next, the system compares this response to the answer to the alternative diagnosis query **2912**. If an alternative diagnosis is at least as likely as pulmonary embolism **2916**, the intensivist is also given a low probability **2918** to moderate probability **2920** risk factor. If an alternative diagnosis is less likely than pulmonary embolism **2922**, the intensivist is given a moderate **2924** to high **2926** probability risk factor.

[0312] If less than two yes answers resulted from the patient conditions **2906**, the intensivist is advised by the system that an atypical pulmonary embolism may be present **2928**. Next, the system compares this response to the answer to the alternative diagnosis query **2912**. If an alternative diagnosis is at least as likely as pulmonary embolism **2930**, the intensivist is told there is no risk and low probability **2932** or some risk with a low probability **2934** risk factor. If an alternative diagnosis is less likely than pulmonary embolism **2934**, the intensivist is given a no risk and low probability **2938** to risk but moderate probability **2940**.

[0313] If at least one answer to the symptoms of syncope, blood pressure less than 90 mm Hg with heart rate greater than 100 beats/min, receiving mechanical ventilation and/or oxygen supplementation greater than 40%, and new onset or right heart failure **2910** is yes, the intensivist is prompted with a message that severe pulmonary embolism is occurring **2942**. Next, the system compares this response to the answer to the alternative diagnosis query **2912**. If an alternative diagnosis is at least as likely as pulmonary embolism **2944**, the intensivist is told there is a moderate probability of pulmonary embolism **2946**. If an alternative diagnosis is less likely than pulmonary embolism **2948**, the intensivist is notified that a high probability of pulmonary embolism is present **2950**.

[0314] Once the risk factors and probabilities are determnined the system compares this information to the VQ scan results. This comparison is performed according to the following Table 4 below.

TABLE 4

Probability table

	Clinical Probability V/Q Scan		
Input	High	Moderate	Low
High	A	A	B
Intermediate	B	C	C
Low	B	C	E
Normal	E	E	E

[0315] Where the VQ scan column and the risk column intersect, a letter code is assigned to various treatment instructions. The treatment instructions are as follows.

[0316] A=Pulmonary embolus diagnosed. Begin treatment

[0317] E=Pulmonary embolus excluded

[0318] B=Proceed with the following work-up:

[0319] 1) Perform spira CT (If patient has real insufficiency [creatinine>2.0], consider going directly to pulmonary angiogram to reduce the potential dye load). If positive begin treatment,

[0320] 2) If negative, assess for DVT using compression ultrasound or venography. If positive begin treatment,

[0321] 3) If negative, perform pulmonary angiogram. If positive begin treatment, if negative diagnosis excluded.

[0322] C=Proceed with the following work-up:

[0323] 1) Perform spiral CT. If positive begin treatment,

[0324] 2) If negative, assess for DVT using compression ultrasound or venography. If positive begin treatment,

[0325] 3) If negative perform D-dimer assay (elisa only). If negative diagnosis excluded, If positive, perform serial ultrasound of the lower extremities.

[0326] Once the correlation is made, the instructions associated with the letter code are displayed by the system to prompt the intensivist with diagnosis and treatment instructions.

[0327] Referring to **FIG. 32**, the seizure decision support algorithm of the present invention is illustrated. If an intensivist encounters seizure in a patient, he may not be certain of all of the aspects and the timelines that are critical to treating this particular condition. Therefore, the intensivist is lead through a decision support algorithm, which divides the treatment sequence into three segments: 0-30 minutes; 30-60 minutes; and beyond 60 minutes.

[0328] At the onset of a seizure, in the 0-30 minute segment of the algorithm, the intensivist is prompted to give the patient lorazepam (0.1 mg/kg of bodyweight) in 2 mg boluses up to 8 mg **2000**. Subsequently, the intensivist is prompted to give the patient phenyloin (18-20 mg/kg of bodyweight) at 50 mg/min of fosphenyloin (18-20 mg/kg of bodyweight) at 150 mg/min followed by 5 mg/kg of bodyweight/day through separate IV line **2002**.

[0329] During the 30-60 minute segment of the algorithm, the intensivist is prompted to: reload additional phenyloin or fosphenyloin (10 mg/kg of bodyweight) maintaining previous infusion; and give additional lorazepam (0.05 mg/kg of bodyweight) **2004**. Subsequently, the intensivist is prompted to begin continuous EEG monitoring **2006**.

[0330] The intensivist is then prompted to determine whether the patient is hemodynamically stable **2008**. If hemodynamically stable, the intensivist is prompted to administer propofol 1-2 mg/kg of bodyweight bolus followed by 2-10 mg/kg/hr **2010**.

[0331] At the 60 minute segment of the algorithm, the intensivist is prompted that if seizure activity stops, he should taper either midazolam or propofol over the next 12-24 hours while maintaining phenyloin but if seizures persist, he is prompted to move to the pentobarbital coma block **2012**.

[0332] Under pentobarbital coma, the intensivist is prompted to administer 10-15 mg/kg/hr and to maintain until seizure control is achieved on EEG **2014**. The intensivist is prompted further that the patient usually requires PA catheter and pressors to maintain hemodynamic control **2014**.

[0333] Alternatively, if the patient is determined to be hemodynamically unstable **2016**, the intensivist is prompted to utilize fluids and pressors as needed (phynylephrine or dopamine) midazolam 0.2 mg/kg bolus followed by 0.1-2.0 mg/kg/hr **2018**.

[0334] At the 60 minute segment of the algorithm, the intensivist is prompted that if seizure activity stops, he should taper either midazolam or propofol over the next 12-24 hours while maintain phenyloin but if seizures persist, he is prompted to move to the pentobarbital coma block **2012**.

[0335] Under pentobarbital coma, the intensivist is prompted to administer 10-15 mg/kg/hr and to maintain until seizure control is achieved on EEG **2014**. The intensivist is prompted further that the patient usually requires PA catheter and pressors to maintain hemodynamic control **2014**.

[0336] Referring to FIGS. **33**A-B, the supra ventricular tachycardia (SVT) decision support algorithm of the present invention is illustrated. If an intensivist determines that SVT is present, the intensivist may not be certain of all aspects that would be involved in treating this particular condition. Therefore, the intensivist is lead through a decision support algorithm which prompts the intensivist to determine the appropriate care to be given.

[0337] Initially, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether SVT is stable or unstable **2100**. If SVT is stable **2102**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has a regular or irregular rhythm **2102**. If the patient has a regular rhythm **2104**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether there is a wide complex or a narrow complex **2104**. If the intensivist determines that there is a wide complex **2106**, the intensivist is prompted to administer adenosine 6 mg/12 mg (if needed) **2108**. Following the administering of adenosine **2108**, the intensivist is prompted to consider that if the patient converts to sinus rhythm (SR) to—consider re-entrant junctional or WPW re-entrant. If the wide complex recurs, treat the patient with esmolol or Ca+2 blockers.

[0338] Alternatively; if no effect, the intensivist is prompted to consider V-tach **2112**. Next, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) load procainamide 150 mg over 10 min, then 1 mg/min infusion; and 2) synchronized cardiovert **2114**.

[0339] Alternatively, if the wide complex slows, the intensivist is prompted to consider SVT w/aberrancy and continue to slow with esmolol or Ca+2 blockers **2116**.

[0340] The intensivist is prompted next to administer esmolol/calcium blockers and link to ventricular rate control **2118**. The intensivist is prompted next to determine whether there has been a conversion to SR **2120**. If there is no conversion to SR in 24 hours, the intensivist is prompted to add antiarrhythmic agent and consider anticoagulation **2122**. The intensivist is prompted next to determine whether there has been conversion to SR. If conversion to SR, the intensivist is prompted to continue maintenance antiarrhythmic agent during hospitalization **2124**. If no conversion to SR, the intensivist is prompted to cardiovert while on antiarrhythmic & following heparinization **2126**.

[0341] If the patient has a regular rhythm **2104**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether there is a wide complex or a narrow complex **2104**. If the intensivist determines that there is a narrow complex **2128**, the intensivist is prompted to to administer adenosine 6 mg/12 mg (if needed) **2130**. If administering the adenosine **2130** slows the ventricular rate only and the atrial rate persists, the intensivist is prompted to consider atrial flutter and continue to slow with esmolol or Ca+2 blockers **2132**. The intensivist is prompted next to employ the procedures described above in **2118**.

[0342] If administering the adenosine **2130** converts the patient to SR, the intensivist is prompted to consider re-entrant sinus or junctional and if recurs, treat with esmolol or Ca+2 blockers **2134**.

[0343] If administering the adenosine **2130** slows both atrial and ventricular rates the intensivist is prompted that there is a probable sinus tachycardia **2136**. The intensivist is prompted next to continue to slow with esmolol **2138**. The intensivist is prompted next to employ the procedures described above in **2118**.

[0344] If SVT is stable **2102**, the intensivist is also prompted to determine whether the patient has a regular or irregular rhythm **2102**. If the patient has an irregular rhythm **2140**, the intensivist is prompted that if no p waves, there is probable Atrial fibrillation **2142**. The intensivist is prompted next to slow ventricular response with esmolol or Ca+2 blockers **2144**. The intensivist is prompted next to employ the procedures described above in **2118**.

[0345] If the patient has an irregular rhythm **2140**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether there are more than 3 p wave types MAT—and to treat underlying lung dz. and avoid theophylline compounds **2146**. The intensivist is prompted next to slow rate with Ca+2 blockers only **2148**. The intensivist is prompted next to employ the procedures described above in **2118**.

[0346] Referring now to **FIG. 33C**, the description of the SVT decision algorithm continues. If SVT is unstable **2101**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has SBP less than 80, ischemia, mental status changes **2150**. The intensivist is prompted next to perform synchronous cardioversion (100 J, 200 J, 300 J) **2152**. The intensivist is prompted next that if sinus rhythm: 1) correct reversible etiologies; 2) consider starting IV antiarrhythmic for maintenance of sinus rhythm **2154**. Alternatively, following **2152**, the intensivist is prompted next that if continued SVT: 1) correct reversible etiologies; 2) load IV antiarrhythmic (see dosing guidelines) and repeat DC cardioversion **2156**.

[0347] For example, and without limitations, wide complex QRS Tachycardia is also addressed in the decision support algorithm of the present invention. Referring to FIGS. **34**A-B, the wide complex QRS tachycardia decision support algorithm is illustrated. If an intensivist determines that there may be a possibility of wide complex QRS tachycardia, the intensivist may not be certain of all aspects that would be involved in this particular condition. Therefore, the intensivist is lead through a decision support algorithm which prompts the intensivist to determine the appropriate care to be given.

[0348] Initially, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is hemodynamically stable (no angina, heart failure, or hypotension (systolic less than 80 mm)) **2200**. If this criterion is not met, the intensivist is prompted to go to the cardio-pulmonary guidelines algorithm which is generally known to those skilled in the art.

[0349] Alternatively, if this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is within 7 days of a myocardial infarction or at risk for myocardial ischemia **2202**. If the patient is not within 7 days of a myocardial infarction or at risk for myocardial ischemia **2202**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the wide complex QRS rhythm is sustained (greater than 30 seconds) **2234**. If this criterion is not met, the intensivist is prompted to determined whether the QRS is monomorphic **2236**. If the QRS is monomorphic **2236**, the to intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has structural heart disease **2242**. If the patient has structural heart disease **2242**, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) monitor closely; 2) look for reversible etiologies; and 3) consider antiarrhythmic therapy **2244**. If the patient does not have structural heart disease **2242**, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) monitor closely; 2) look for reversible etiologies; and 3) if recurs and symptomatic may require further testing (prolonged holter or EP study) **2246**.

[0350] If the QRS is not monomorphic **2236**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the QT is prolonged **2238**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) check K; 2) give Mg; and 3) consider overdrive pacing **2240**. If the intensivist determines that the QT is not prolonged, **2238**, the intensivist is prompted to employ the procedures described above in **2242**.

[0351] If the wide complex QRS rhythm is sustained **2234**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the rhythm is polymorphic or irregular **2208**. If the rhythm is polymorphic or irregular, the intensivist is prompted to consider atrial fibrillation with accessory pathway conduction and load with procainamide and get a cardiology consultation **2210**. If the rhythm is not polymorphic or irregular, the intensivist is prompted with the question of whether he wishes to: 1) perform ECG diagnosis; or 2) administer adenosine diagnostically **2220**. If the intensivist makes the determination to perform an ECG diagnosis **2220**, he is prompted to go to the ECG diagnosis algorithm **2300**.

[0352] If the intensivist makes the determination to administer adenosine diagnostically **2220**, he is prompted to go to the administer adenosine branch of the algorithm **2222**. If there is no effect, the intensivist is prompted that there is probable VT and to determine whether the VT is monomorphic **2224**. If the VT is monomorphic **2224**, the intensivist is prompted to load with procainamide and perform synchronous cardioversion **2226**.

[0353] Alternatively, if the VT is not monomorphic **2224**, the intensivist is prompted to load with lidocaine and perform immediate cardioversion **2228**.

[0354] If the ventricular response is slowed after administering adenosine **2222**, the intensivist is prompted to consider SVT with aberrancy and treat with esmolol or Ca blockers **2230**.

[0355] If the ventricular response converts to sinus rhythm after administering adenosine **2222**, the intensivist is prompted: to consider re-entrant mechanism with BBB or WPW; and, 1) if WPW consult cardiology for possible ablation **2232**.

[0356] If the patient is within 7 days of a myocardial infarction or at risk for myocardial ischemia **2202**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the wide complex is sustained (30 seconds) **2204**. If the wide complex is not sustained **2204**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient: 1) symptomatic; 2) tachycardia runs are frequent; or 3) the tachycardia rates are rapid (greater than 180) **2212**. If none of these criteria is met, the intensivist is prompted to observe **2216**. Alternatively, if any of these

criteria is met **2212**, the intensivist is prompted to: 1) administer lidocaine 100-200 mg & 1-4 mg/min infusion; and 2) amiodarone **2214**.

[**0357**] If the wide complex is sustained **2204**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the rate is greater than 140/min **2206**. If this criterion is not met **2206**, the intensivist is prompted: to consider accelerated idioventricular, and that in some patients this can lead to hemodynamic compromise; and that 1) he can perform overdrive pacing if needed **2218**.

[**0358**] Alternatively, if this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to follow the procedures in **2208**.

[**0359**] If the intensivist makes the determination to perform ECG Diagnosis **2220**, he is prompted to go to the ECG Diagnosis branch of the algorithm **2220**. Referring now to **FIG. 34C**, in the ECG Diagnosis branch, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has known pre-excitation syndrome **2300**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the QRS complexes are predominantly negative in leads V4-V62302. If the QRS complexes are predominantly negative in leads V4-V6, the intensivist is prompted that there is probable VT **2304**.

[**0360**] If the QRS complexes are not predominantly negative in leads V4-V62302, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether there is a QR complex in one or more of leads V2-V62306. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted that there is probable VT **2308**.

[**0361**] Alternatively, if this criterion is not met **2306**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether there are more QRS complexes than P waves **2310**. If there are more QRS complexes than P waves **2310**, the intensivist is prompted that there is probable VT **2312**. If there are not more QRS complexes than P waves **2310**, the intensivist is prompted: to consider pre-excited SVT; and that he may wish to perform EP study **2314**.

[**0362**] If the intensivist determines that the patient does not have known pre-excitation syndrome **2300**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether there is an RS complex present in any precordial lead **2316**. If this criterion is not met **2316**, the intensivist is prompted that there is probable VT **2318**.

[**0363**] Alternatively, if this criterion is met **2316**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the R to S interval is greater than 100 MS in any one precordial lead **2320**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted that there is probable VT **2322**.

[**0364**] If the R to S interval is not greater than 100 MS in any one precordial lead **2320**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether there is evidence of atrioventricular dissociation **2324**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted that there is probable VT **2326**.

[**0365**] Alternatively, if there is no evidence of atrioventricular dissociation **2324**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether V-1 is negative and V-6 positive and QRS greater than 0.14 mSEC **2328**. If these criteria are met, the intensivist is prompted that there is probable VT **2330**.

[**0366**] If none of these criteria is met **2328**, the intensivist is prompted that the situation may represent SVT with aberrancy or underlying bundle branch block **2332**.

[**0367**] Referring to **FIG. 35A**, the assessment of sedation algorithm of the present invention is illustrated. If an intensivist encounters a need for sedation, he may not be certain of all of the aspects and the timelines that are critical to this particular process. Therefore, the intensivist is lead through a decision support algorithm, which prompts the intensivist to address a number of factors in the process **3100**.

[**0368**] The intensivist is prompted initially to go to the Scoring section of the algorithm **3100**. The intensivist is prompted to proceed through a number of scorings **3102** and to first score the patient's alertness with points being allocated in the following manner: asleep/unresponsive=0; responsive to voice=1; and hyperresponsive=2 **3104**.

[**0369**] The intensivist is prompted next to score the patient's movement with points being allocated in the following manner: no spontaneous movement=0; spontaneous movement=1; and pulls at lines, tubes, dressings=2 **3106**.

[**0370**] The intensivist is prompted next to score the patient's respiration based on whether the patient is mechanically ventilated or spontaneously breathing with points being allocated as subsequently discussed. If the patient is mechanically ventilated, the intensivist is prompted to allocate points in the following manner: no spontaneous ventilation=0; spontaneous ventilations and synchronous with ventilator=1; or spontaneous ventilations with cough or dysynchrony>10 percent of breaths=2 **3108**. Alternatively, if the patient is spontaneously breathing, the intensivist is prompted to allocate points in the following manner: respiration rate (RR)<10=0; RR=10-30=1; or RR>30=2 **3108**.

[**0371**] The intensivist is prompted next to score the patient's heart rate with points being allocated in the following manner: >20 percent below mean for last 4 hr=0; within 20 percent mean for last 4 hr=1; or >20 percent above mean for last 4 hr=2 **3110**.

[**0372**] The intensivist is prompted next to score the patient's blood pressure with points being allocated in the following manner: MAP>20 percent for last 4 hr=0; MAP within 20 percent mean for last 4 hr=1; or MAP>20 percent above mean for last 4 hr=2 **3112**.

[**0373**] The intensivist is prompted next to determine the sedation score by the following formula: SEDATION SCORE=alertness+movement+respirations+heart rate+ blood pressure **3114**. In one embodiment, respiratory rate, heart rate, and BP can be computer linked to monitor data thereby simplifying the sedation scoring assessment. The nursing observations are deemed intuitive and the nursing burden in sedation scoring can be minimal by using this point scoring.

[**0374**] Referring now to **FIG. 35B**, the sedation assessment algorithm description continues. The intensivist is prompted then to continue the sedation assessment by moving to the Pain Assessment section of the algorithm **3116**.

[**0375**] In the Pain Assessment section, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is conscious, communicative, and acknowledging pain **3118**. If any of these criteria is not met, the intensivist is prompted to determine: whether the sedation score is greater than 2 and the patient: is known to be in pain before becoming uncommunicative; or S/p recent surgery; or having tissue ischemia

or infarct; or has wounds; or has large tumor possibly impinging on nerves. If the answer to either of these two questions is YES, the intensivist is prompted to treat for pain **3118**. The intensivist is prompted then to continue the assessment by moving to the Delirium Assessment section of the algorithm **3118**.

[**0376**] In the Delirium Assessment section, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the sedation score is greater than 2 AND the patient has: day/night reversal with increased agitation at night OR eyes open and "awake" but disoriented; or eyes open and "awake" but pulling at lines, tubes, or dressings OR difficult to sedate prior to ventilator weaning OR paradoxical response to benzodiazepines. If these criteria is met, the intensivist is prompted to consider butyrophenone **3120**.

[**0377**] Referring to **FIG. 36**, the Bolus sliding scale algorithm is illustrated. If an intensivist encounters a need for sedation, the algorithm for which may contain a reference to the bolus sliding scale for midazolam, he nay not be certain of all of the aspects which are critical to this scale. Therefore, the intensivist is lead through a decision support algorithm, which prompts the intensivist through the use of the scale **3200**.

[**0378**] If lorazepam is less than 0-2 mg IV q 6 hr, then the intensivist is prompted to give midazolam 1-2 mg q 5 min until adequately sedated **3202**.

[**0379**] Alternatively, if lorazepam equals 2-4 mg IV q 4 hr, then the intensivist is prompted to give midazolam 2 mg q 5 min until adequately sedated **3202**.

[**0380**] Alternatively, if lorazapam is greater than 10 mg IV q 4 hr, then the intensivist is prompted to give midazolam 5 mg q 5 min until adequately AND consider fentanyl and/or droperidol or Haldol for synergy despite delirium and pain assessment **3202**.

[**0381**] Yet another decision support routine is the sedation algorithm. Referng to **FIG. 37**, the sedation process decision support algorithm is illustrated. If an intensivist determines that a patient will require sedation, the intensivist may not be certain of all aspects that would be involved in this particular process. Therefore, the intensivist is lead through a decision support algorithm, which prompts the intensivist to conduct a sedation assessment based on: 1) scoring; 2) pain; and 3) delirium (see Assessment of Sedation algorithm) **3300**.

[**0382**] Following completion of the sedation assessment process **3300**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is in pain **3302**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to administer bolus morphine, fentanyl, other narcotic, start patient controlled analgesic (PCA) or epidural analgesia as indicated **3324**. If the patient is not in pain **3302** or after administering bolus morphine, fentanyl, other narcotic, start patient controlled analgesic (PCA) or epidural analgesia as indicated **3324**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is delirious **3304**.

[**0383**] If the intensivist determines that the patient is delirious **3304**, he is prompted to administer droperidol 2.5-5 mg q 30 min pm and that he may consider IV Haldol not to exceed 30 mg/24 hr **3326**. If the patient is not delirious or after following the procedures in **3326**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient will need sedation for more than the next 24 hours **3306**. If the patient will not need sedation for more than the next 24 hours **3306**, the process continues as described in **FIG. 38**.

[**0384**] Alternatively, if the patient will need sedation for more than the next 24 hours **3306**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the sedation score is 8-10 **3308**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to employ the Bolus sliding scale midazolam and increase lorazepam by 20 percent **3328** (see Bolus sliding scale midazolam algorithm—**FIG. 36**). Subsequently, the intensivist is prompted to reassess sedation in 4 hr **3330**.

[**0385**] Alternatively, if the patient will need sedation for more than the next 24 hours **3306**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the sedation score is 8-10 **3308**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to employ the Bolus sliding scale midazolam and increase lorazepam by 20 percent **3328** (see Bolus sliding scale midazolam algorithm—**FIG. 42**). Subsequently, the intensivist is prompted to reassess sedation in 4 hr **3330**.

[**0386**] If the sedation score is not 8-10, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the sedation score is greater than or equal to the last Sed Scr after sedative bolus or increase **3310**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to employ the procedures described above in **3328** and **3330**.

[**0387**] If the sedation score is not greater than or equal to the last Sed Scr after sedative bolus or increase **3310**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether four (4) or more midaz boluses have been given since last q 4 hr assessment **3312**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to employ the procedures described above in **3328** and **3330**.

[**0388**] Alternatively, if less than four (4) midaz boluses have been given since last q 4 hr assessment **3312**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is adequately sedated **3314**. If this criterion is not met, the intensivist is prompted to employ the procedure described in **3328** and **3330**.

[**0389**] If the intensivist determines that the patient is adequately sedated **3314**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the sedation score is 0-2 **3316**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to decrease lorazepam by 20 percent **3332** and reassess sedation in 4 hr **3334**.

[**0390**] Alternatively, if the sedation score is not 0-2 **3316**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the sedation score is less than or equal to the last Sed Scr after sedative decrease **3318**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to employ the procedure described in **3332** and **3334**.

[**0391**] If the sedation score is not less than or equal to the last Sec Scr after sedative increase **3318**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is clinically oversedated **3320**. If the patient is clinically oversedated **3320**, the intensivist is prompted to employ the procedure described in **3332** and **3334**. If the patient is not clinically oversedated **3320**, the intensivist is prompted to reassess sedation in 4 hr **3322**.

[**0392**] Referring to **FIG. 38**, the short term sedation process decision support algorithm of the present invention

is illustrated. If an intensivist determines that a patient will not require sedation past the next 24 hour period, the intensivist may not be certain of all aspects that would be involved in this particular process. Therefore, the intensivist is lead through a decision support algorithm, which prompts the intensivist to conduct a sedation assessment based on: 1) scoring; 2) pain; and 3) delirium (see Assessment of Sedation algorithm) **3100**.

[**0393**] Following completion of the sedation assessment process **3100**, the intensivist is prompted to decrease lorazepam by 20 percent from baseline per day **3102**. The intensivist is prompted next to determine whether the patient is in pain **3104**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to administer bolus morphine or fentanyl **3122**. If the patient is not in pain or after administering bolus morphine or fentanyl **3122**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is delirious **3106**.

[**0394**] If the intensivist determines that the patient is delirious, he is prompted to administer droperidol 2.5-5 mg q30 min pm **3124**. If the patient is not delirious or after administering droperidol **3124**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the sedation score is 8-10 **3108**.

[**0395**] If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to employ the Bolus sliding scale midazolam (see Bolus sliding scale midazolam algorithm) and begin midazolam infusion or begin propofol 1-2 mg/kg bolus and 5-50 mcg/kg/min infusion **3126**. Subsequently, the intensivist is prompted to reassess sedation in 1 hr **3128**.

[**0396**] If the sedation score is not 8-10, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the sedation score is greater than or equal to the last Sed Scr after sedative bolus or increase **3110**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to employ the procedures described above in **3126** and **3128**.

[**0397**] If the intensivist determines that the sedation score is not greater than the last sedation score after sedative bolus or increase **3110**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is adequately sedated **3112**. If this criterion is not met, the intensivist is prompted to employ the procedures described above in **3126** and **3128**.

[**0398**] If the intensivist determines that the patient is adequately sedated **3112**, he is prompted to determine whether the sedation score is 0-2 **3114**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to determine if the patient has been sedated for more than 72 hours **3130**. If the patient has not been sedated for more than 72 hours **3130**, the intensivist is prompted to hold midazolam or propofol and hold or decrease lorazepam by 50 percent **3132**. The intensivist is prompted subsequently to reassess sedation in 1 hour **3134**.

[**0399**] Alternatively, if the intensivist determines that the patient has been sedated for more than 72 hours **3130**, the intensivist is prompted to hold midazolam or propofol and decrease lorazepam by 20 percent per day **3136**. The intensivist is prompted subsequently to reassess sedation in 1 hour **3134**.

[**0400**] Alternatively, if the intensivist determines that the sedation score is not 0-2 **3114**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the sedation score is less than or equal to the last sedation screening after sedative decrease **3116**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has been sedated for more than 72 hours and to follow the procedures described above in **3130**.

[**0401**] If the intensivist determines that the sedation score is not less than or equal to the last Sed Scr after sedative decrease **3116**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient is clinically oversedated **3118**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has been sedated for more than 72 hours and to follow the procedures described above in **3130**. If this criterion is not met, the intensivist is prompted to reassess sedation in 1 hr **3120**.

[**0402**] Referring to **FIG. 39**, the respiratory isolation decision support algorithm is illustrated. If an intensivist determines that there may be a need for respiratory isolation, the intensivist may not be certain of all aspects that would be involved in this process. Therefore, the intensivist is lead through a decision support algorithm which prompts the intensiviat to determine the need for respiratory isolation based upon: a) clinical assessment; and/or b) smear/culture findings **3500**.

[**0403**] Pursuing the clinical assessment branch of the decision support algorithm, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has known mTB (*mycobacterium tuberculosis*) 3502. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has been compliant with their medications for over 2 weeks and is clinically responding **3512**. If the patient has not been compliant with their medications for over 2 weeks and is not clinically responding **3512**, the intensivist is prompted that isolation is required **3514**. If the patient has been compliant with their medications and is clinically responding **3512**, the intensivist is prompted that no isolation is required **3516**.

[**0404**] Alternatively, if the patient does not have known mTB **3502**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has known mycobacterial disease other than TB **3504**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has new CXR (chest x ray) findings and symptoms (cough 2 weeks, fever, weight loss) **3518**. If the patient does not have new CXR findings and symptoms **3518**, the intensivist is prompted that no isolation is required **3520**. If the patient does have new CXR findings and symptoms **3518**, the intensivist is prompted that isolation is required **3522**.

[**0405**] If the patient does not have known mycobacterial disease other than TB **3504**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether there is a new cavitary lesion on CXR **3506**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted that isolation is required **3524**.

[**0406**] Alternatively, if there is no new cavitary lesion on CXR **3506**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether there are pulmonary infiltrates or whether the patient is HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) positive **3508**. If neither of these criteria is met, the intensivist is prompted that no isolation is required **3510**. If either of these criteria is met, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has new CXR findings and symptoms (cough 2 weeks, fever, weight loss) and at high risk: 1) known mTB exposure; 2) homeless; 3) prisoner; 4) travel to area with multi-drug resistant TB **3526**. If these criteria are met, the intensivist is prompted that isolation is required **3528**. Alternatively, if these criteria are not met, the intensivist is prompted that no isolation is required **3530**.

[0407] Pursuing the smear/culture branch of the decision support algorithm **3500**, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the AFB (acid-fast bacilli) smear is positive **3532**. If the AFB smear is not positive, the intensivist is prompted that: no isolation is required; await culture results; if culture negative, no isolation required; if culture positive and patient has mycobacterial disease other than TB (MOTT no isolation is required; if the culture is positive and the patient does not have MOTT consult ID **3534**.

[0408] Alternatively, if the AFB smear is positive, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has known mycobacterial disease other than TB **3536**. If this criterion is not met, the intensivist is prompted that isolation is required **3538**. If this criterion is met, the intensivist is prompted: to isolate until results of NAP test are in; if mTB positive isolate the patient; if no mTB, no isolation is required **3540**.

[0409] Referring to **FIG. 40**, the empiric meningitis tratment decision support algorithm of the present invention is illustrated. If the intensivist is treating a patient for meningitis, the intensivist is prompted to answer a series of queries by the system to properly address medication and dosage. First, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has suffered a head trauma or undergone neurosurgery **3700**. The answer to this question is input 1 to table x below. The intensivist is next prompted to determine whether the patient is allergic to penicillin or is from an area where penicillin resistant *staphylococcus pneumoniae* is prevalent **3702**. The answer to this question becomes input 2 to table x below. The intensivist must also determine whether the patient is inmunocompromised **3704**, and the answer becomes input 3 to table x below. The intensivist determines if the patient is over fifty years of age **3706**, with the answer being input 4 in table x below. Lastly, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has altered mental status **3708**, and the answer becomes input 5 in table x below. The inputs to each of these prompts **3702**, **3704**, **3706**, **3708** is compared to a dosage database according to the Table 5 below.

TABLE 5

Meningitis Input-Output Table

Input	Combinations	Output
1	1 = yes	A) vancomycin
	2 = no	1.5–2 gm IV q 12 h + ceftazedine 2 gm IV q 8 hr or cefapime 2gm IV q 8 hr
2	1 = yes	B) vancomycin
	2 = no	1.5–2 gm IV q 12 h + aztreonam 0.5–2 gm IV q 6–8 hr
3	1 = no	ampicillin 2 gm IV q 4 h + ceftriaxone
	2 = no	2 gm IV q12
	3 = no	cefotaxime 2 gm IV q 12 hr
	4 = yes	
4	1 = no	ceftriaxone 2 gm IV q 12 hr
	2 = no	or
	3 = no	cefotaxime 2 gm IV q 6 hr
	4 = no	
5	1 = no	ampicillin 2 gm IV q 4 hr + ceftazidime
	2 = no	2 gm IV q 8 hr
	3 = yes	or
		cefipime 2 gm IV q 8 hr
6	1 = no	vancomycin 1.5–2 gm IV q 12 hr +
	2 = yes	chloramphenicol 1 gm IV q 6 hr
	3 = no	
	4 = yes	
7	1 = no	
	2 = yes	
	3 = no	
	4 = no	
8	1 = no	
	2 = yes	
	3 = yes	
9	5 = yes to inputs 3–8	add to output consider acyclovir 10 mg/kg IV q 8 h

[0410] In the Meningitis Input-Output Table, possible combinations of the five inputs are listed. For the conditions manifested in the patient, different drugs and dosages will be required. The proper treatment for each combination is listed in the output column of Table 5. After the algorithm runs the comparison, the output is displayed on the computer screen, prompting the intensivist with the proper treatment **3712**.

[0411] Referring to **FIG. 41A**, the ventilator weaning decision support algorithm of the present invention is illustrate The ventilator weaning decision support algorithm is used to determine whether an intensive care unit patient can return to breathing unassisted, and discontinue use of a ventilator. Such a determination weuires evaluation of the patient by the intensivist over the course of several days.

[0412] To begin the decision process of whether to wean a patient from ventilator use, the intensivist is prompted to conduct daily screening, preferably during the hours of 06:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. **3800**. The daily screen prompts the intensivist to determine whether: the patients P/F ratio is greater than 200, the patient's positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) is less than or equal to 5, whether cough suctioning has been adequate and/or spontaneous, infusions with vasopressors have been necessary, and continuous infusions of sedatives or neuromuscular blocking agents have been necessary **3800**. If all conditions **3802** are answered no, the intensivist is directed by the system to repeat the daily screen **3805** the following morning. If all the conditions of the daily screen are met **3802**, the intensivist is prompted to perform additional tests.

[0413] If the patient has satisfied the daily screen, the intensivist is next directed to conduct a rapid shallow breathing test **3804**. To perform the test, the intensivist is directed to change the ventilator setting to continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) less than or equal to 5. In other words, there is no intermittent mandatory ventilation or pressure support provided for the patient. The patient is given one minute to reach a steady state of breathing. Then the intensivist measures the ratio of breaths per minute to tidal volume (f/V.sub.T). The intensivist next is prompted to determine whether the patient's f/V.sub.T is less than or equal to 105 breathes per minute **3806**. If the patient's f/V.sub.T is greater than 105 breathes per minute, the intensivist is prompted to return to performing daily screening the following morning **3808**.

[0414] If the patient's f/V.sub.T is less than or equal to 105 breathes per minute, the intensivist is next directed to

perform a trial of spontaneous breathing. Here, the intensivist can either insert a T-Piece in the patient's airway or reduce the patient's CPAP to less than or equal to 5 over the course of two hours. The intensivist is prompted to observe the patient periodically in order to evaluate if the patient is breathing without assistance **3810**. The intensivist is prompted to perform a periodic assessment by determining whether: the patient's breathing characteristics are greater than 35 breaths per minute for 5 minutes, or SpO.sub.2 is less than 90%, or the patient's Heart Rate (HR) is grater than 140, or HR deviates from the baseline breathing rate by more than 20%, or the patient's SBP is outside the range of 90 to 180. If any of the conditions are met, the intensivist is directed by the system to terminate ventilator weaning **3812**. If the conditions are not met, the patient is further assessed.

[**0415**] In further assessment, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has been able to breathe spontaneously for two hours, keep a clear airway, and does not have any procedures scheduled within twenty-four hours that would require the patient to be intubated **3814**. If the patient meets all of these criteria **3814**, the intensivist is notified by the system that the patient may be extubated **3816**. If the patient does not meet one or more of the criteria **3814**, the intensivist is prompted to perform steps for progressive weaning **3818**.

[**0416**] Referring to **FIG. 41B**, the ventilator weaning decision support algorithm of the present invention is further illustrated. The intensivist, at his or her discretion may choose either T-piece progressive weaning or pressure support progressive weaning. In order to perform T-piece progressive weaning, the intensivist is directed to repeat the trial of spontaneous breathing (as previously described **3810**). The intensivist can either insert a T-piece in the patient's airway or reduce the patient's CPAP to less than or equal to 5 over the course of two hours. The intensivist is prompted to perform periodic assessment of the patient by either a two hour or 30 minute trial **3820**.

[**0417**] In order to perform pressure support progressive weaning, the intensivist is first prompted to observe whether the patient's pressure support (PS) rating is equal to eighteen plus or minus the positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP). Next, the intensivist is directed by the system to regulate the pressure values in order to keep the patient's respiratory rate (RR) between twenty and thirty. Next, the intensivist is directed by the system to decrease the patient's pressure support by 2-4 centimeters of water two times per day. Once the patient maintains pressure support for at least two hours, the intensivist is prompted to further pursue extubating the patient **3822**.

[**0418**] After either T-Piece progressive weaning **3820** or pressure support progressive weaning **3822**, the intensivist is next prompted to perform a periodic assessment of the patient. Here, the intensivist must determine whether whether: the patient's breathing characteristics are greater than 35 breaths per minute for 5 minutes, or SpO.sub.2 is less than 90%, or the patient's HR is grater than 140, or HR deviates from the baseline breathing rate by more than 20%; or the patient's SBP is outside the range of 90 to 180. Where the patient meets any of these criteria, the intensivist is prompted to terminate weaning. If the patient meets none of these criteria; the intensivist is prompted to further assess the patient's ability to breath spontaneously **3824**.

[**0419**] In further assessment, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has been able to breathe spontaneously for two hours, keep a clear airway, and does not have any procedures scheduled within twenty-four hours that would require the patient to be intubated **3826**. If the patient meets all of these criteria **3814**, the intensivist is notified by the system that the patient may be extubated **3828**. If the patient does not meet one or more of the criteria **3826**, the intensivist is directed by the system to allow the patient to rest for at least twelve hours at A/C, the last level of pressure support the patient achieved **3830**. The intensivist is prompted to resume progressive weaning the following day **3832**.

[**0420**] Referring to **FIG. 42**, the Warfarin Dosing Algorithm of the present invention is illustrated. The intensivist is first prompted to give the initial dose and determine subsequent dosage each day **3900**. When the intensivist determines subsequent dosage, he is first prompted to determine the patient's target INR **3902**. If the patient's target INR ranges from 2.0 to 3.0, the intensivist is prompted by the system to make further determinations relevant to dosage. The intensivist is directed by the system to determine whether the patient is taking drugs that effect prothrombin time **3904**, the baseline INR value **3906**, and whether rapid anticoagulation is required **3908**. Each answer is assigned a point value, and the total points are tabulated. If the point value is greater than one, the system refers to the 10 milligram load target database for dosing. If the point value is less than one, the system refers to the 5 milligram load target database for dosing **3910**.

[**0421**] At the initial INR determination **3902**, if the patient's INR was initially between 1.5 and 2.0, the system refers to the 5 milligram load target database for dosing. If the patient's INR was initially between 3.0 and 4.0, the system refers to the 10 milligram load target database for dosing **3910**. Next the intensivist is prompted to enter the day of treatment **3912** and the patient's INR **3914**. Depending on whether the system has been directed to the 5 milligram load target or the 10 milligram load target, a comparison is run **3916** according to the following tables.

TABLE 6

5 mg Load Target INR 1.5–2.0

Day	<1.5	1.5–2	2–2.5	>2.5
2	5	1.25–2.5	0	0
3	5–7.5	1.25–2.5	0–1.25	0
4	10-(Check to see whether pt has received vit K)	1.25–2.5	0–1.25	0
5	10 (Check to see whether pt Has received vit K)	2.5–5	0–2.5	0–1.25
6	15 Obtain hematology consultation.	2.5–5	1.25–2.5	0–1.25

[0422]

TABLE 7

	10 mg Load Target INR 3.0–4.0				
Day	<1.5	1.5–2	2–2.5	2.5–3	>3
2	10	7.5–10	5–7.5	2.5–5.0	0–2.5
3	10–15	7.5–10	5–7.5	2.5–5	2.5–5
4	10–15 (Check to see whether pt has received vit K)	7.5–12.5	5–10	5–7.5	2.5–5
5	15 (Check to see whether pt has received vit K)	10–12.5	7.5–10	5–7.5	2.5–5
6	15–20 obtain hematology consultation.	10–15	7.5–12.5	5–10	5–7.5

[0423] The appropriate dosage and instructions is displayed on the computer screen to the intensivist **3918**.

[0424] Referring to **FIG. 43**, the heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT) decision support algorithm of the present invention is illustrated. The intensivist is prompted to observe whether the patient's platelet count has dropped 50% or more over seventy-two hours while being treated with heparin, and whether any other obvious causes of platelet reduction might be present **4100**. If such a drop has not occurred, the intensivist is notified by the system that the patient most likely does not have HIT, but monitoring of the platelet count should continue **4102**. If the patient's platelet count has drastically dropped, the intensivist is prompted to determine whether the patient has been treated with heparin for more than three days **4104**. Regardless of the answer, the intensivist is next prompted to determine if the patient has been treated with heparin in the preceeding three months **4106**. If the patient has not received heparin in the proceeding three months, the intensivist is notified by the system that HIT is not likely to be the cause of the platelet drop. The intensivist is also prompted to monitor platelet count for infection or other thronbocytopenia-causing drugs, and to consider stopping heparin therapy if the platelet count drops below 50,000 per cubic millimeter **4108**.

[0425] If the patient has received heparin in the last three days **4104**, the intensivist is further prompted to look for signs of thrombosis, or blood clotting **4110**. If the patient shows signs of thrombosis, the intensivist is notified by the system that the patient is likely to have HIT. Accordingly, the intensivist is prompted to stop administering heparin and flush any drug administration equipment that would contain heparin traces. The intensivist is also provided instructions by the system to treat a patient still requiring anticoagulation treatment with alternate drugs and methods **4112**.

[0426] Where the patient does not show signs of thrombosis **4110**, the intensivist is prompted to check for heparin resistance **4114**. Signs of heparin resistance include inability to hold aPTT though heparin doses have been increase. If the patient shows signs of heparin resistance, the intensivist is prompted to consider stopping heparin treatment and to consider treating a patient still requiring anticoagulation treatment with alternate drugs and methods **4116**. If the patient does not show signs of heparin resistance, the intensivist is notified by the system that the patient possibly has HIT. The intensivist is accordingly prompted to continue monitoring for thrombosis, consider infection or other drugs that cause throbocytopenia, and to consider stopping heparin therapy if the platelet count drops below 50,000 per cubic millimeter **4118**.

Results

[0427] The structure of the present invention and its efficacy have yielded striking results in practice. In a research setting, deployment of certain rudimentary aspects of the present the invention designed to experimentally test the approach described and developed in detail above, yielded unprecedented improvements in clinical and economic outcomes: 50% improvement in severity adjusted mortality, 40% improvement in clinical complication rates, 30% improvement in ICU length of stay, and 30% improvement in overall ICU cost of care.

[0428] A system and method for standardizing care in a hospital environment has been shown. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that other variations of the present invention are possible without departing from the scope of the invention as disclosed. For example, one can envision different ratios of command center/remote location to ICU's, other decision support algorithms that would be used by intensivists, other types of remote monitoring of not only hospitalized patients but other types of hospital functions as well as industrial functions where critical expertise is in limited supply but where that expertise must be applied to ongoing processes. In such cases a system such as that described can be employed to monitor processes and to provide standardized interventions across a number of geographically dispersed locations and operations. Further, any reference to claim elements in the singular, for example, using the articles "a,""an," or "the" is not to be construed as limiting the element to the singular.

We claim:

1. A decision support system for standardizing treatment to hospitalized patients comprising:

a datastore, wherein the datastore comprises patient data elements indicative of a medical condition associated with a hospitalized patient; and

a decision support module adapted to:

access a decision support algorithm;

apply the decision support algorithm to selected patient data elements of the hospitalized patient;

receive input from a user;

apply the decision support algorithm to user input; and

provide patient care guidance to the user in response to results of applying the decision support algorithms to the selected patient data elements and the user input.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein a selected patient data element comprises a monitored data element generated by a patient monitoring device.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the system further comprises a network interface, and wherein the network interface is adapted to receive a monitored data element from the hospitalized patients via a network.

4. The system of claim 2, wherein the monitored data element is selected from the group consisting of heart rate, systolic pressure, diastolic pressure, pulmonary artery wedge pressure, central venous pressure, mixed venous oxygen saturation, oxygen saturation, tidal volume, inspiratory pressure, positive end expiratory pressure, respiration rate, electroencephalography and bispectral index.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein a selected patient data element comprises a clinical data element.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the clinical data element is selected from the group consisting of patient history, caregiver notes, laboratory reports, venous pressure, and urine output.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the user input comprises a response to a question posed by the decision support algorithm.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the decision support algorithm comprises a guideline selected from the list consisting of:

Acalculous Cholecystitis, Acute Pancreatitis Algorithms, Acute Renal Failure-Diagnosis, Acute Renal Failure-Management & Treatment, Adrenal Insufficiency. Agitation and Anxiety, Depression & Withdrawal, Aminoglycoside Dosing and Therapeutic Monitoring, an Amphotericin-B Treatment Guidelines, Analgesia, Antibiotic Classification & Costs, Antibiograms Algorithm, Antibiotic associated Colitis Algorithm, ARDS: Hemodynamic Management, ARDS: Steroid Use, ARDS: Ventilator Strategies, Asthma, Bleeding Patient, Bloodstream Infections, Blunt Cardiac Injury, Bradyarrhythmias, Brain Death, Bronchodilator Use in Ventilator Patients, Bronchoscopy & Thoracentesis Guidelines, Candiduria, Cardiogenic Shock, CardioPulmonary Resuscitation Guideline, Catheter Related Septicemia, a Catheter Replacement Strategies, Cervical Cord Injury, Congestive Heart Failure, COPD Exacerbation & Treatment, CXR (Indications), Dealing with Difficult patients and families, Diabetic Ketoacidosis, Dialysis, Diuretic Use, Drug Changes with Renal Dysfunction, Emergency Cardiac Pacing, Endocarditis Diagnosis and Treatment, Endocarditis Prophylaxis, End of Life Decisions, Endotracheal Tubes & Tracheotomy, Ethical Guidelines, Febrile Neutropenia, FUO, Fluid Resuscitation, Guillain-Barre Syndrome, Heparin, Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia, Hepatic Encephalopathy, Hepatic Failure, HIV+Patient Infections, Hypercalcemia Diagnosis and Treatment, Hyperglycemia Insulin Treatment, Hyperkalemia: Etiology & Treatment, Hypernatremia: Etiology & Treatment, Hypertensive Crisis, Hypokalemia: Etiology & Treatment, Hyponatremia: Etiology & Treatment, Hypothermia, Identification of Cervical Cord Injury, Implantable Cardio-defibrillator, Intra-Aortic Balloon Device, Intracerebral Hemorrhage, Latex Allergy, Magnesium Administration, Management of Hypotension, Inotropes, Management of Patients with Ascites, Empiric Meningitis, Meningitis, a Myasthenia Gravis, Myocardial Infarction, Myocardial Infarction with left bundle branch block, Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infections, Neuromuscular Blockers, Neuromuscular Complications of Critical Illness, Non-Infectious Causes of Fever, Non-Traumatic Coma, Noninvasive Modes of Ventilation, Nutritional Management, Obstetrical Complication, Oliguria, Open Fractures, Ophthalmic Infections, Organ Procurement Guidelines, PA Catheter Guideline and Troubleshooting, Pancreatitis, Penetrating Abdominal Injury, Penetrating Chest Injury, Penicillin Allergy, Permanent Pacemaker and Indications, Pneumonia Community Acquired, Pneumonia Hospital Acquired, Post-Op Bleeding, Post-Op Hypertension, Post-Op Management of Abdominal Post-Op Management of Carotid, Post-Op Management of Open Heart, Post-Op Management of Thoracotomy, Post-Op Myocardial Ischemia (Non-Cardiac Arrhythmias after Cardiac Surgery), Post-Op Power Weaning, Pressure Ulcers, Pulmonary Embolism Diagnosis, Pulmonary Embolism Treatment, Respiratory Isolation, Sedation, Seizure, Status Epilepticus, Stroke, Sub-Arachnoid Hemorrhage, Supra-Ventricular Tachyarrhythmia, Supra-Ventricular Tachycardia, Wide Complex QRS Tachycardia, Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, Thrombocytopenia, Thrombolytic Therapy, Transfusion Guidelines, Traumatic Brain Injury, Assessment of Sedation, Sedation, Septic Shock, Bolus Sliding, Scale Midazolam, Short Term Sedation Process, Sinusitis, SIRS, Spinal Cord Injury, Steroid Replacement Strategy, Thyroid Disease, Transplant Infection Prophylaxis, Transplant Related Infections, Treatment of Airway Obstruction, Unknown Poisoning, Unstable Angina, Upper GI Bleeding Stress Prophylaxis, Vancomycin, Upper GI Bleeding Non-Variceal, Upper GI Bleeding Variceal, Use of Hematopoietic Growth Factors, Ventilator Weaning, Ventilator Weaning Protocol, Venous Thrombosis Diagnosis and Treatment, Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis, Ventricular Arrhythmia, Warfarin, Warfarin Dosing, and Wound Healing Strategies.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the patient care guidance is a diagnosis.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the patient care guidance is a method of treatment.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein the patient care guidance is a laboratory protocol.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the decision support module is further adapted to:

access an order writing module; and

issue an order from the order writing module.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the order comprises authorization to administer medication to the hospitalized patient.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the order comprises authorization to subject the hospitalized patient to a diagnostic procedure selected from the group consisting of a laboratory protocol, a ventilator protocol, a hemodynamic protocol, and a radiology test.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the order comprises authorization to subject the hospitalized patient to a treatment procedure selected from the group consisting of a radiological procedure and a surgical procedure.

16. A method for standardizing care provided to hospitalized patients comprising:

accessing patient data elements indicative of a medical condition associated with a hospitalized patient;

accessing a decision support algorithm;

applying the decision support algorithm to selected patient data elements of the hospitalized patient;

receiving user input;

applying the decision support algorithm to user input; and

providing patient care guidance to the user in response to results of applying the decision support algorithms to the selected patient data elements and the user input.

17. The method for standardizing care provided to hospitalized patients of claim 16, wherein a selected patient data element comprises a monitored data element generated by a patient monitoring device.

18. The method for standardizing care provided to hospitalized patients of claim 17, wherein the selected patient data element is received from the patient monitoring device via a network.

19. The method for standardizing care provided to hospitalized patients of claim 17, wherein the monitored data element is selected from the group consisting of heart rate, systolic pressure, diastolic pressure, pulmonary artery wedge pressure, central venous pressure, mixed venous oxygen saturation, oxygen saturation, tidal volume, inspiratory pressure, positive end expiratory pressure, respiration rate, electroencephalography and bispectral index.

20. The method for standardizing care provided to hospitalized patients of claim 16, wherein the selected patient data element comprises a clinical data element.

21. The method for standardizing care provided to hospitalized patients of claim 20, wherein the clinical data element is selected from the group consisting of patient history, caregiver notes, laboratory reports, venous pressure, and urine output.

22. The method for standardizing care provided to hospitalized patients of claim 16, wherein the user input comprises a response to a question posed by the decision support algorithm.

23. The method for standardizing care provided to hospitalized patients of claim 22, wherein the decision support algorithm comprises a guideline selected from the list consisting of:

Acalculous Cholecystitis, Acute Pancreatitis Algorithms, Acute Renal Failure-Diagnosis, Acute Renal Failure-Management & Treatment, Adrenal Insufficiency. Agitation and Anxiety, Depression & Withdrawal, Aminoglycoside Dosing and Therapeutic Monitoring, an Amphotericin-B Treatment Guidelines, Analgesia, Antibiotic Classification & Costs, Antibiograms Algorithm, Antibiotic associated Colitis Algorithm, ARDS: Hemodynamic Management, ARDS: Steroid Use, ARDS: Ventilator Strategies, Asthma, Bleeding Patient, Bloodstream Infections, Blunt Cardiac Injury, Bradyarrhythmias, Brain Death, Bronchodilator Use in Ventilator Patients, Bronchoscopy & Thoracentesis Guidelines, Candiduria, Cardiogenic Shock, CardioPulmonary Resuscitation Guideline, Catheter Related Septicemia, a Catheter Replacement Strategies, Cervical Cord Injury, Congestive Heart Failure, COPD Exacerbation & Treatment, CXR (Indications), Dealing with Difficult patients and families, Diabetic Ketoacidosis, Dialysis, Diuretic Use, Drug Changes with Renal Dysfunction, Emergency Cardiac Pacing, Endocarditis Diagnosis and Treatment, Endocarditis Prophylaxis, End of Life Decisions, Endotracheal Tubes & Tracheotomy, Ethical Guidelines, Febrile Neutropenia, FUO, Fluid Resuscitation, Guillain-Barre Syndrome, Heparin, Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia, Hepatic Encephalopathy, Hepatic Failure, HIV+Patient Infections, Hypercalcemia Diagnosis and Treatment, Hyperglycemia Insulin Treatment, Hyperkalemia: Etiology & Treatment, Hypernatremia: Etiology & Treatment, Hypertensive Crisis, Hypokalemia: Etiology & Treatment, Hyponatremia: Etiology & Treatment, Hypothermia, Identification of Cervical Cord Injury, Implantable Cardio-defibrillator, Intra-Aortic Balloon Device, Intracerebral Hemorrhage, Latex Allergy, Magnesium Administration, Management of Hypotension, Inotropes, Management of Patients with Ascites, Empiric Meningitis, Meningitis, a Myasthenia Gravis, Myocardial Infarction, Myocardial Infarction with left bundle branch block, Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infections, Neuromuscular Blockers, Neuromuscular Complications of Critical Illness, Non-Infectious Causes of Fever, Non-Traumatic Coma, Noninvasive Modes of Ventilation, Nutritional Management, Obstetrical Complication, Oliguria, Open Fractures, Ophthalmic Infections, Organ Procurement Guidelines, PA Catheter Guideline and Troubleshooting, Pancreatitis, Penetrating Abdominal Injury, Penetrating Chest Injury, Penicillin Allergy, Permanent Pacemaker and Indications, Pneumonia Community Acquired, Pneumonia Hospital Acquired, Post-Op Bleeding, Post-Op Hypertension, Post-Op Management of Abdominal Post-Op Management of Carotid, Post-Op Management of Open Heart, Post-Op Management of Thoracotomy, Post-Op Myocardial Ischemia (Non-Cardiac Arrhythmias after Cardiac Surgery), Post-Op Power Weaning, Pressure Ulcers, Pulmonary Embolism Diagnosis, Pulmonary Embolism Treatment, Respiratory Isolation, Sedation, Seizure, Status Epilepticus, Stroke, Sub-Arachnoid Hemorrhage, Supra-Ventricular Tachyarrhythmia, Supra-Ventricular Tachycardia, Wide Complex QRS Tachycardia, Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, Thrombocytopenia, Thrombolytic Therapy, Transfusion Guidelines, Traumatic Brain Injury, Assessment of Sedation, Sedation, Septic Shock, Bolus Sliding, Scale Midazolam, Short Term Sedation Process, Sinusitis, SIRS, Spinal Cord Injury, Steroid Replacement Strategy, Thyroid Disease, Transplant Infection Prophylaxis, Transplant Related Infections, Treatment of Airway Obstruction, Unknown Poisoning, Unstable Angina, Upper GI Bleeding Stress Prophylaxis, Vancomycin, Upper GI Bleeding Non-Variceal, Upper GI Bleeding Variceal, Use of Hematopoietic Growth Factors, Ventilator Weaning, Ventilator Weaning Protocol, Venous Thrombosis Diagnosis and Treatment, Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis, Ventricular Arrhythmia, Warfarin, Warfarin Dosing, and Wound Healing Strategies.

24. The method for standardizing care provided to hospitalized patients of claim 16, wherein the patient care guidance is a diagnosis.

25. The method for standardizing care provided to hospitalized patients of claim 16, wherein the patient care guidance is a method of treatment.

26. The method for standardizing care provided to hospitalized patients of claim 16, wherein the patient care guidance is a laboratory protocol.

27. The method for standardizing care provided to hospitalized patients of claim 16, further comprising:

accessing an order writing module; and

issuing an order from the order writing module.

28. The method for standardizing care provided to hospitalized patients of claim 27, wherein the order comprises authorization to administer medication to the hospitalized patient.

29. The method for standardizing care provided to hospitalized patients of claim 27, wherein the order comprises authorization to subject the hospitalized patient to a diagnostic procedure selected from the group consisting of to a laboratory protocol, a ventilator protocol, a hemodynamic protocol, and a radiology test.

30. The method for standardizing care provided to hospitalized patients of claim 27, wherein the order comprises authorization to subject the hospitalized patient a treatment procedure selected from the group consisting of a radiological procedure and a surgical procedure.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	用于标准化医院环境中的护理的系统和方法		
公开(公告)号	US20060122869A9	公开(公告)日	2006-06-08
申请号	US11/061715	申请日	2005-02-18
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	VISICU		
申请(专利权)人(译)	VISICU INC.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	VISICU INC.		
[标]发明人	ROSENFELD BRIAN A BRESLOW MICHAEL		
发明人	ROSENFELD, BRIAN A. BRESLOW, MICHAEL		
IPC分类号	G06F17/60 G06F19/00 A61B5/00 A61B5/0205 G08B21/04		
CPC分类号	A61B5/0205 A61B5/412 G06F19/322 G06F19/325 G06F19/328 G06F19/3418 G06F19/345 G06Q50/22 G06Q50/24 G08B21/0211 G08B21/0476 H04L67/12 A61B5/002 A61B5/4094 A61B5/411 G16H10/20 G16H10/60 G16H40/67 G16H50/20 G16H70/20 G16H70/60		
优先权	60/141520 1999-06-23 US		
其他公开文献	US7433827 US20050159987A1		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

一种用于标准化医院环境中的护理的系统和方法。有关给定条件的最新护理和实践标准的信息被提供给决策支持模块。决策支持模块包括决策支持算法，其反映特定医疗状况的标准化实践指南。心血管，内分泌学，一般，胃肠道，血液学，传染病，神经病学，药理学，肺，肾，外科，毒理学，创伤的一般类别都有与之相关的指南和实践标准。将患者数据和用户输入输入到决策支持算法。可以提示用户输入用户，并且对患者进行评估，以便为患者提供患者护理建议。患者护理建议的实例是诊断，治疗方法和实验室方案。