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(54) **MEDICAL DATA DISPLAY**

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(75) **Inventors:** **Lionel Tarassenko**, Oxford (GB);
Paul Michael Hayton, Oxford
(GB); **Alastair William George**,
Oxford (GB)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Correspondence Address:
NIXON & VANDERHYTE, PC
901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR
ARLINGTON, VA 22203 (US)

A method of displaying medical data, particularly data representative of the condition of patients suffering from chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes and hypertension. The display consists of two graphical elements, one of which indicates the current value of a parameter indicative of the patient's condition, this being displayed against another graphical element which represents a model of normality for that patient. The graphical element indicating the current condition may be, for example, a needle, against a scale which is constructed according to the patient-specific model of normality. This is particularly advantageous in the case of displays which have a small display area, such as mobile telephones and PDAs. Other forms of display are disclosed, such as histograms with the display being dynamically colour-coded and auto-scaled, or displays including limits which may vary. Another form of display is also disclosed which illustrates administrations of a pharmacological agent and corresponding measurements of the patient's condition, with a visual link such as colour-coding linking the administration to the corresponding condition measurement. For example several days of insulin administration dosages may be displayed alongside several days of blood glucose measurements, with the administrations colour-coded to the corresponding blood glucose measurement, to assist the patient in determining whether the insulin administration is stably controlling their condition.

(73) **Assignee:** **e-San Ltd.**, Oxford (GB)

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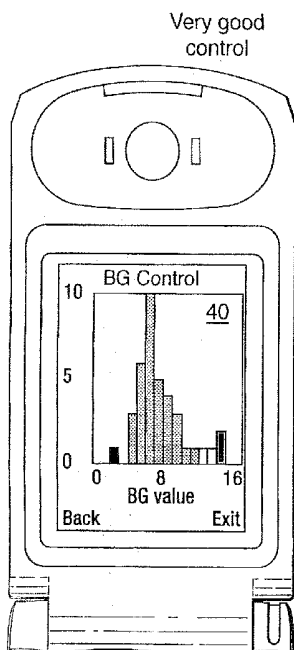
(62) Division of application No. 10/592,802, filed on Nov. 30, 2006, filed as application No. PCT/GB2005/000980 on Mar. 15, 2005.

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Key:

- Blue □ Yellow □ Light Red
- Green □ Orange □ Red

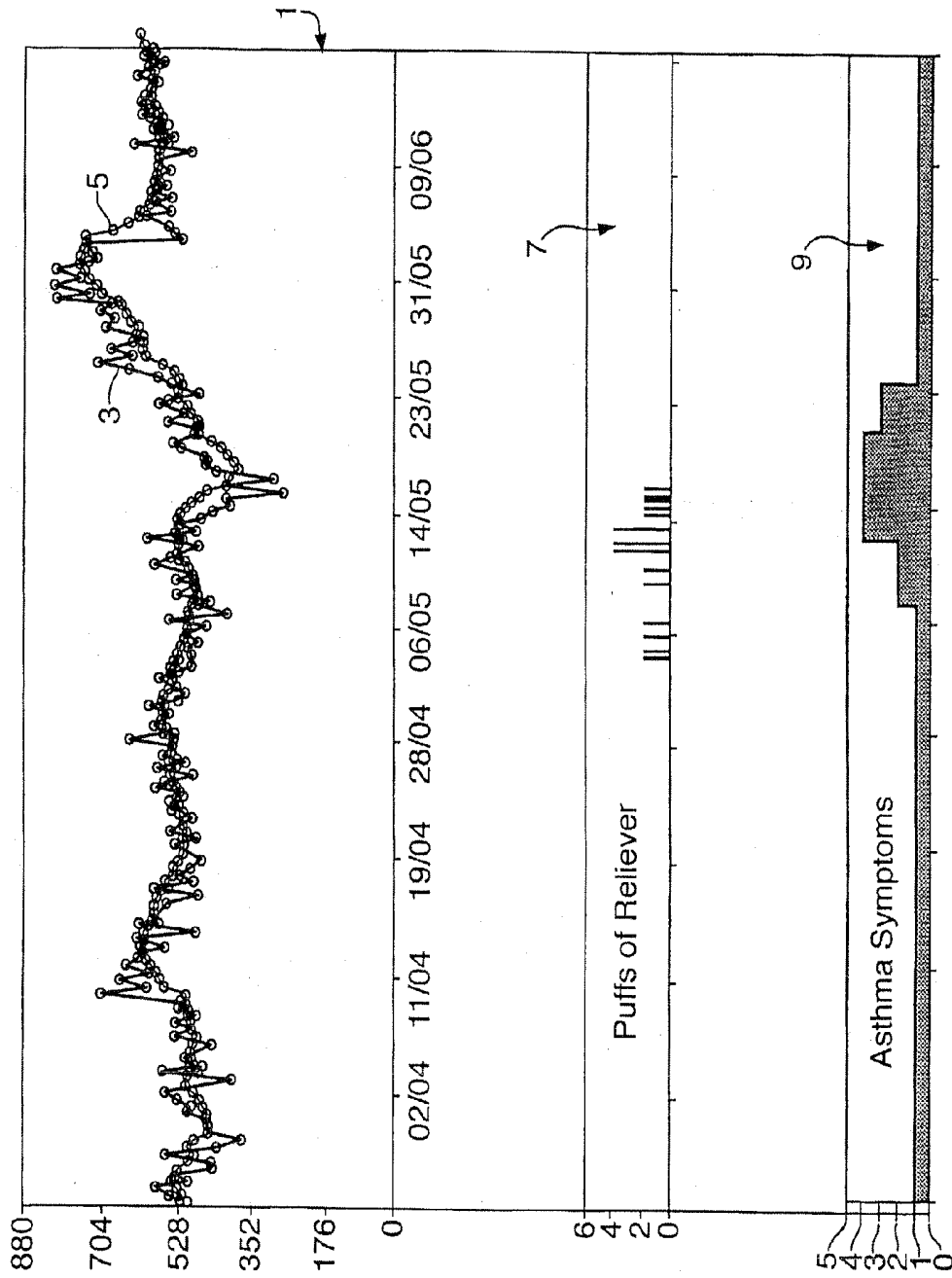


Fig.2. PRIOR ART

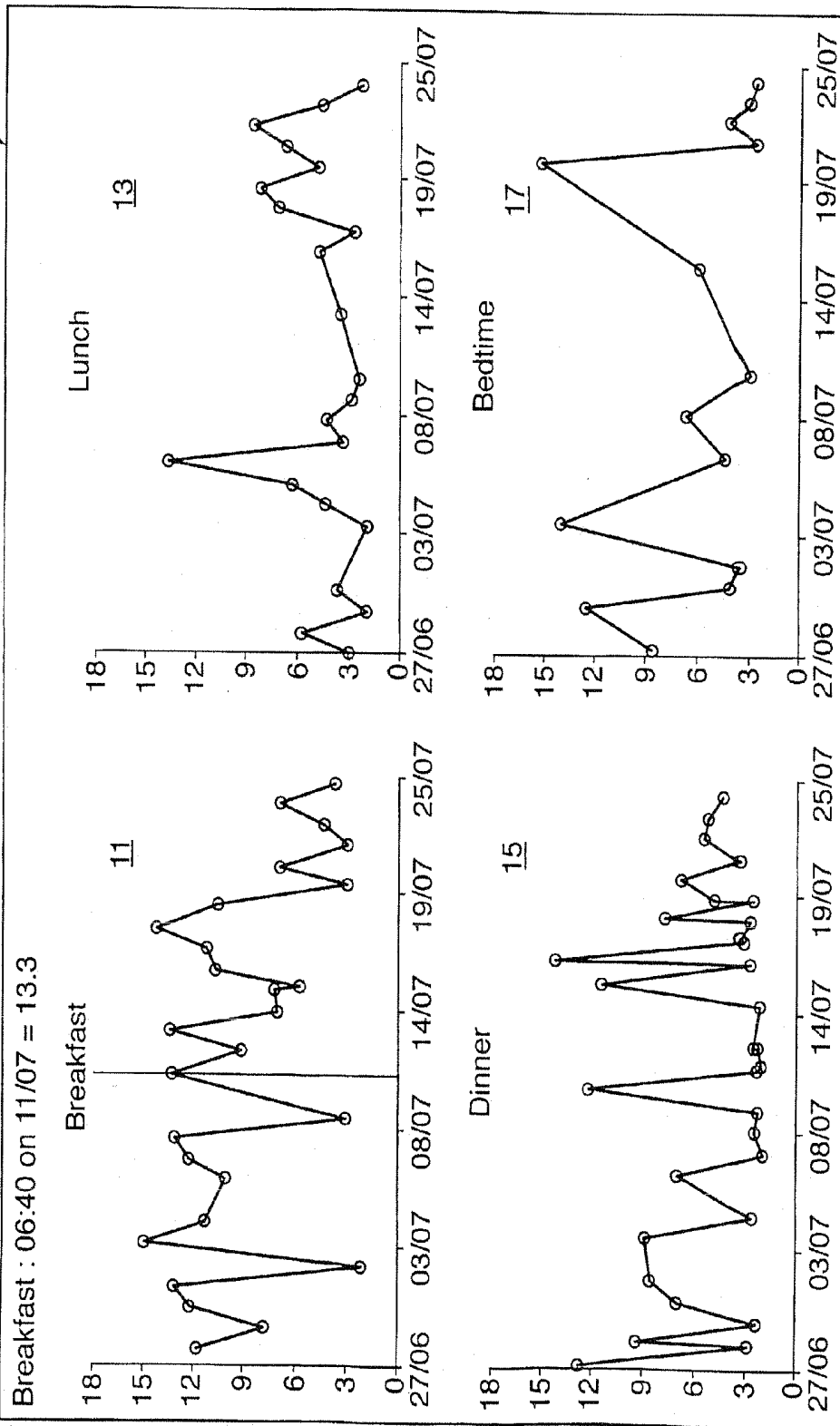


Fig.3A.

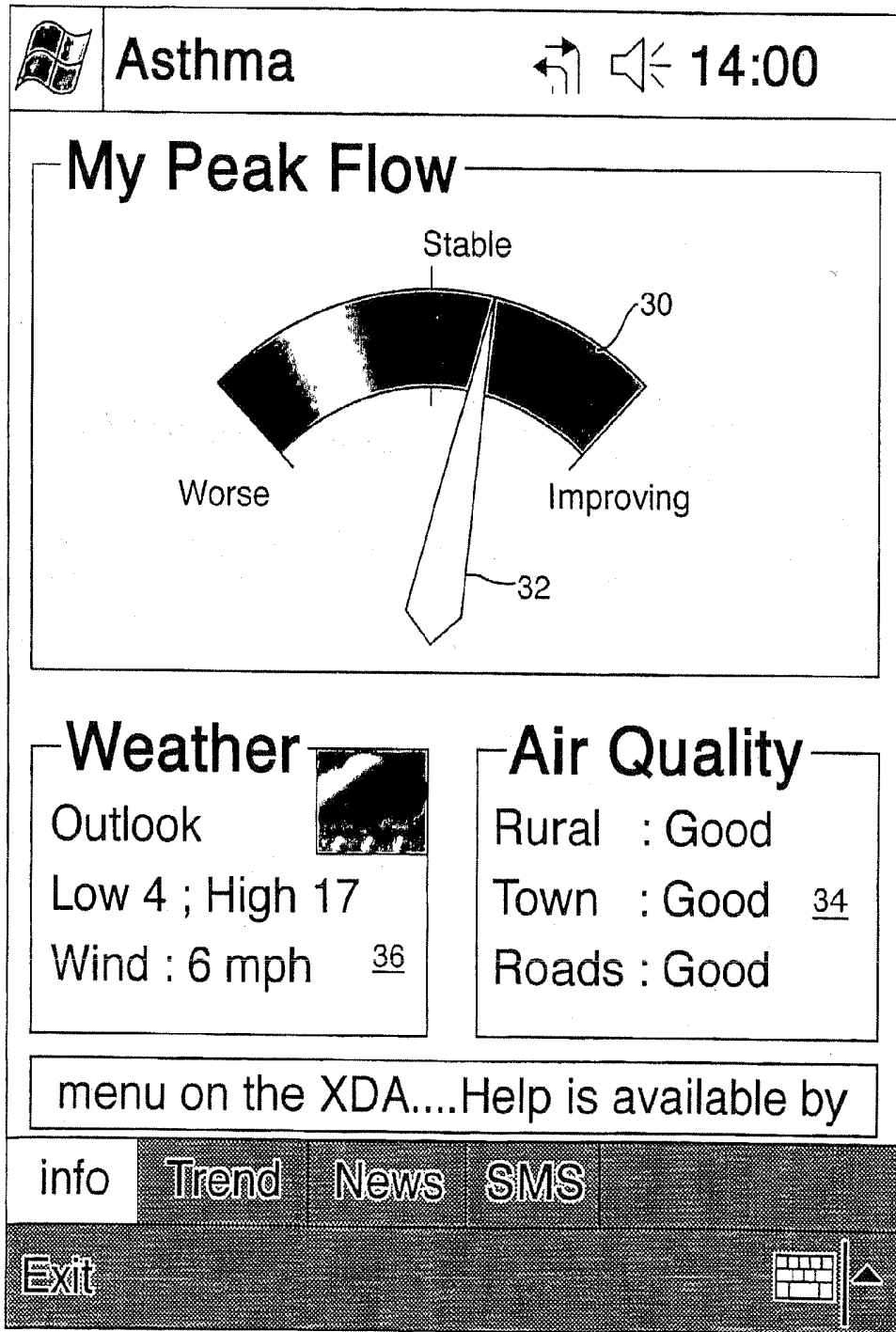


Fig.3B.

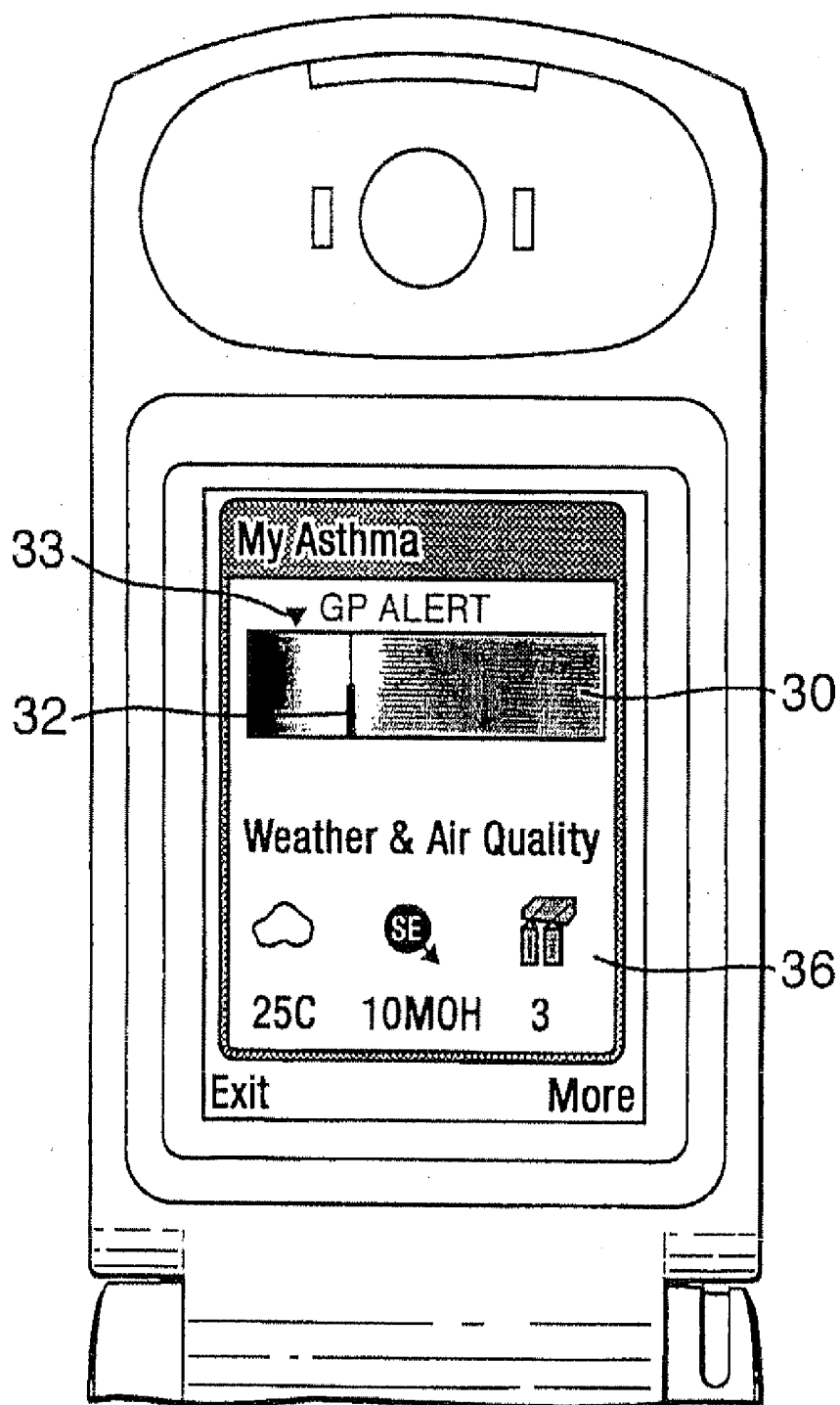
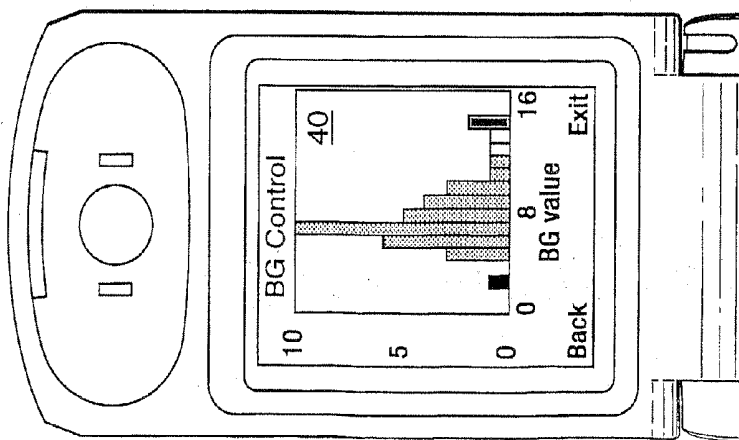


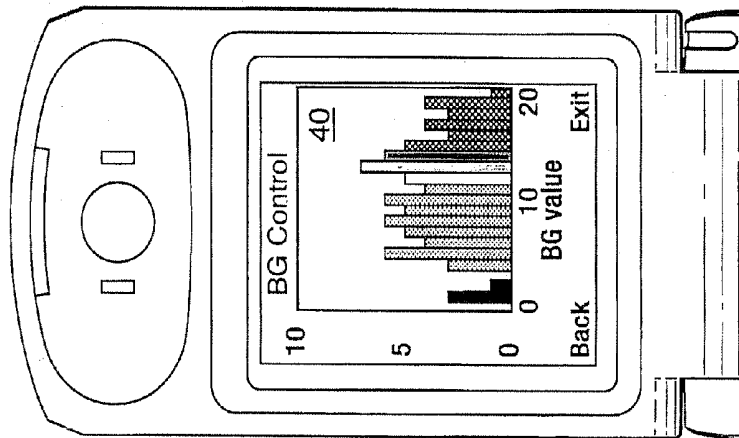
Fig. 4A. Very good control



Key:

- Blue
- Yellow
- Light Red
- ▨ Green
- Orange
- ▨ Red

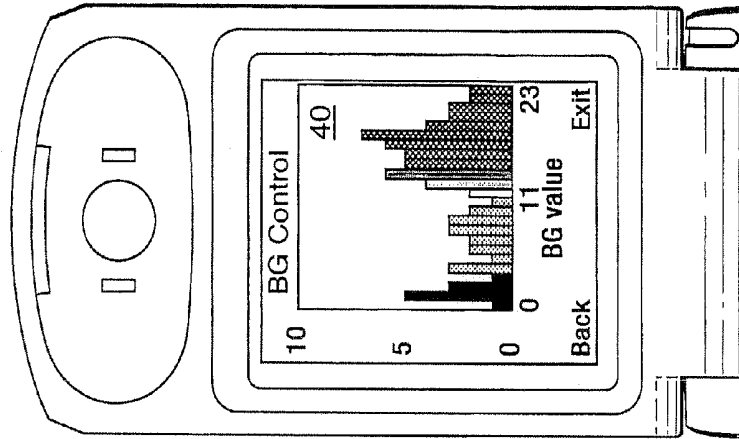
Fig. 4B. Less good control



Key:

- Blue
- Yellow
- Light Red
- ▨ Green
- Orange
- ▨ Red

Fig. 4C. Not so good control



Key:

- Blue
- Yellow
- Light Red
- ▨ Green
- Orange
- ▨ Red

Fig.5.

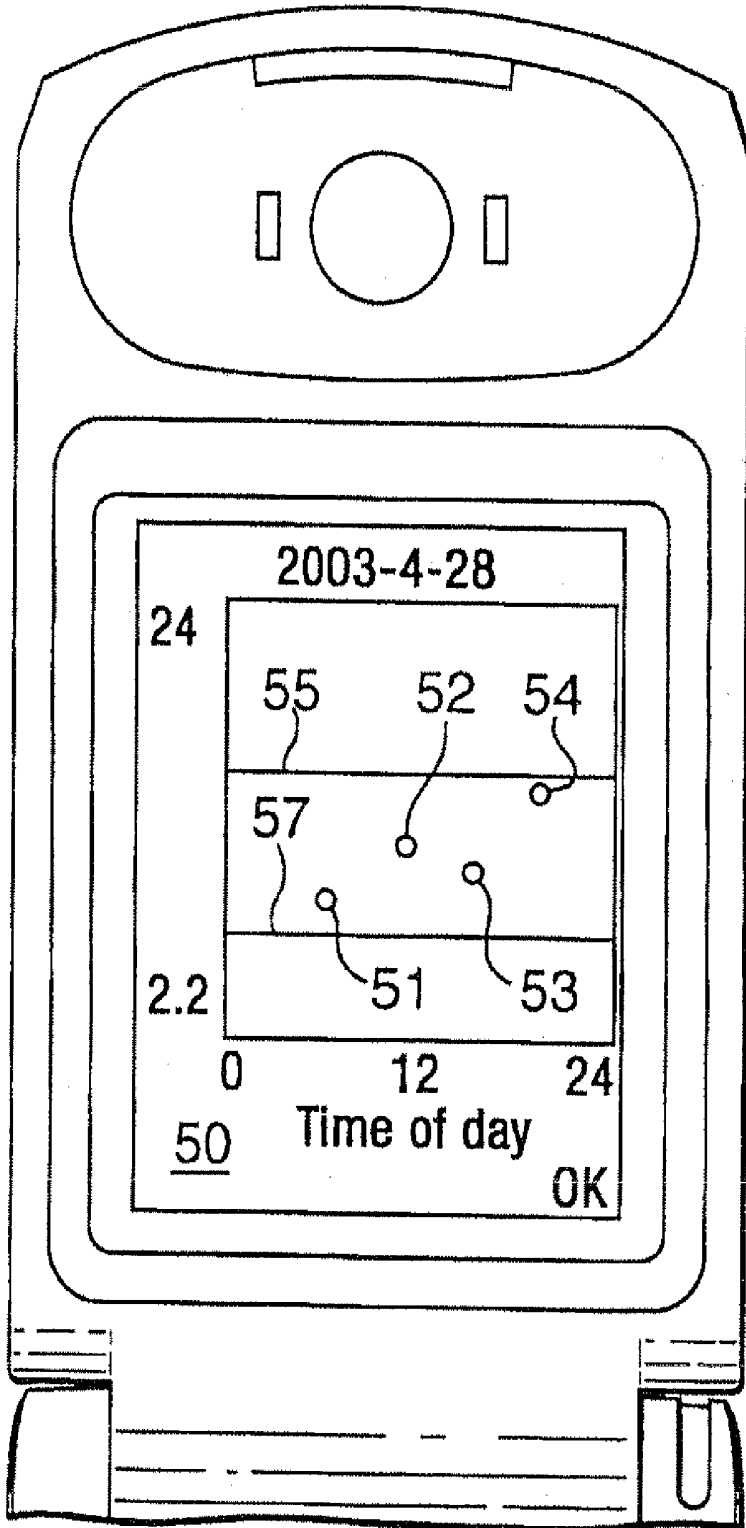


Fig. 6.

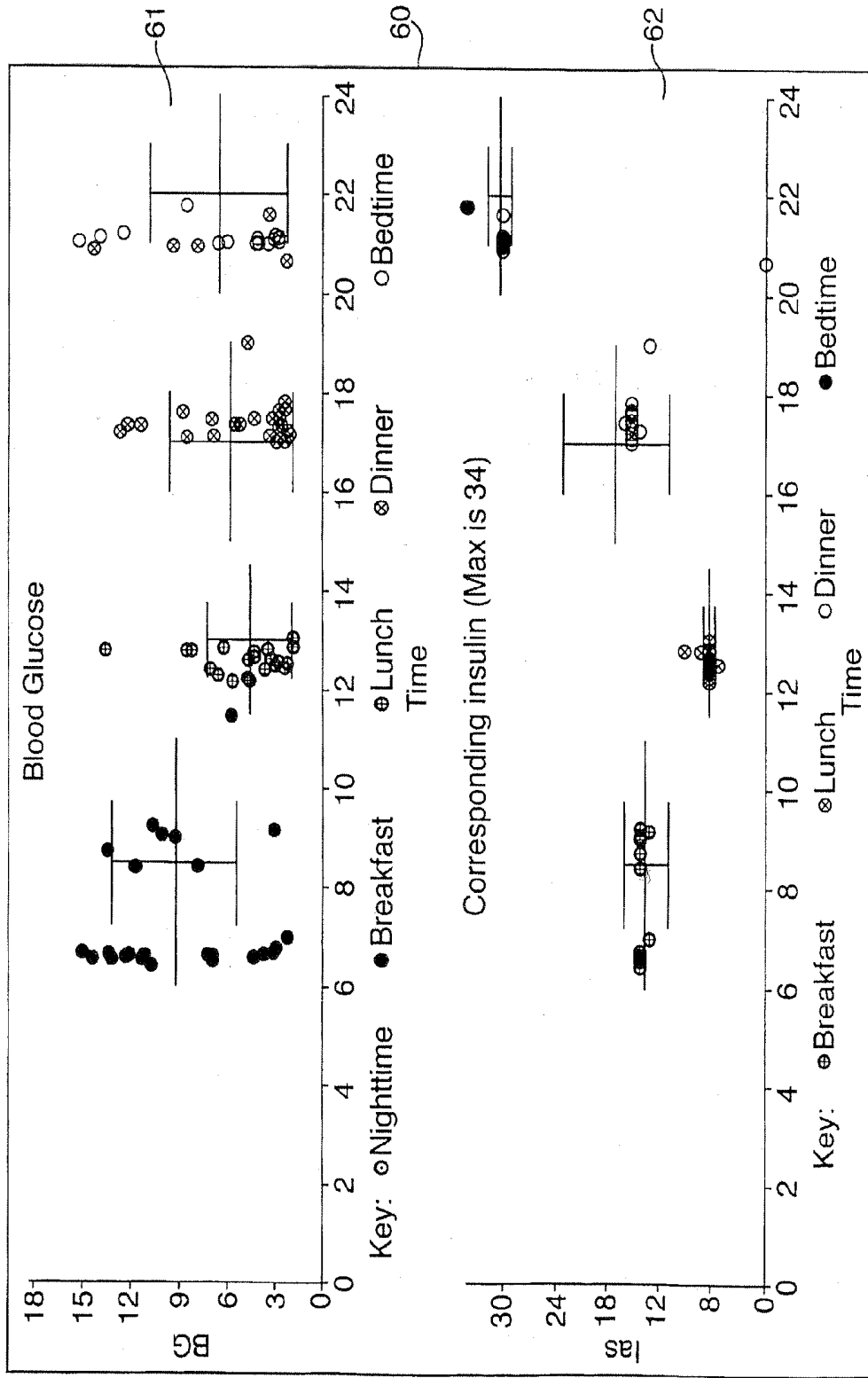


Fig. 7A.

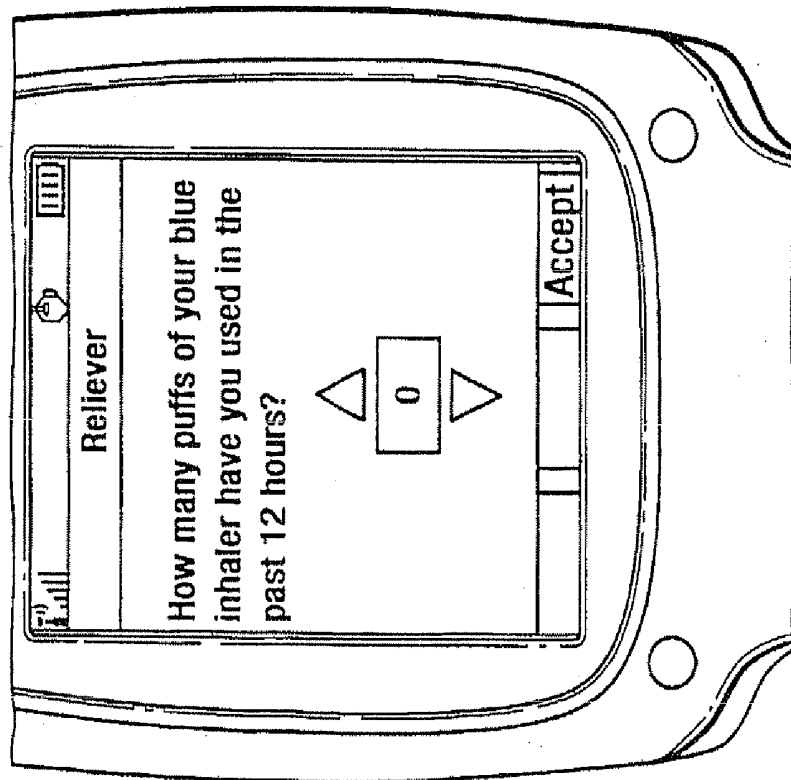


Fig. 7B.

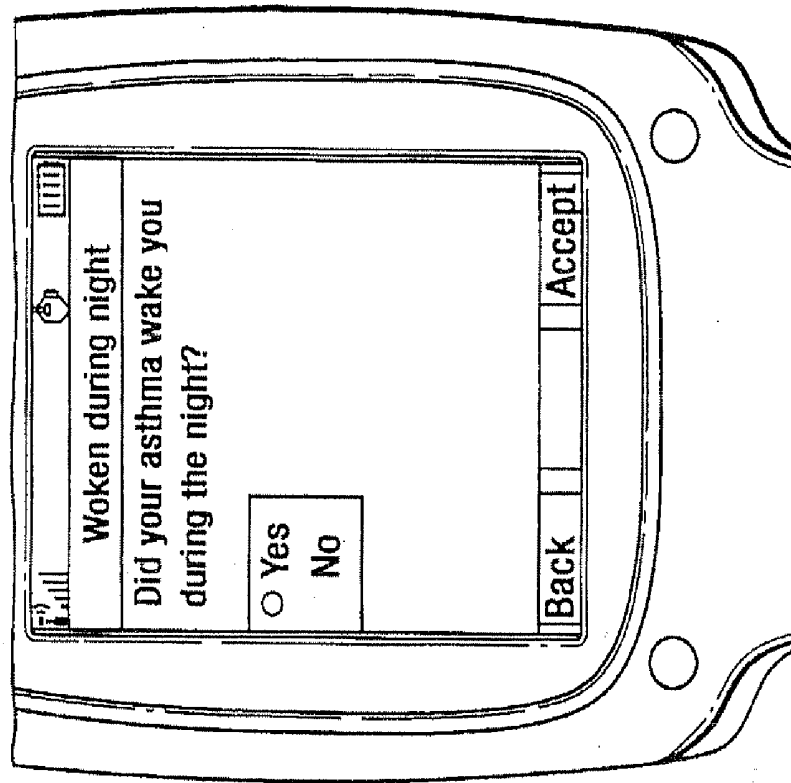


Fig. 7C.

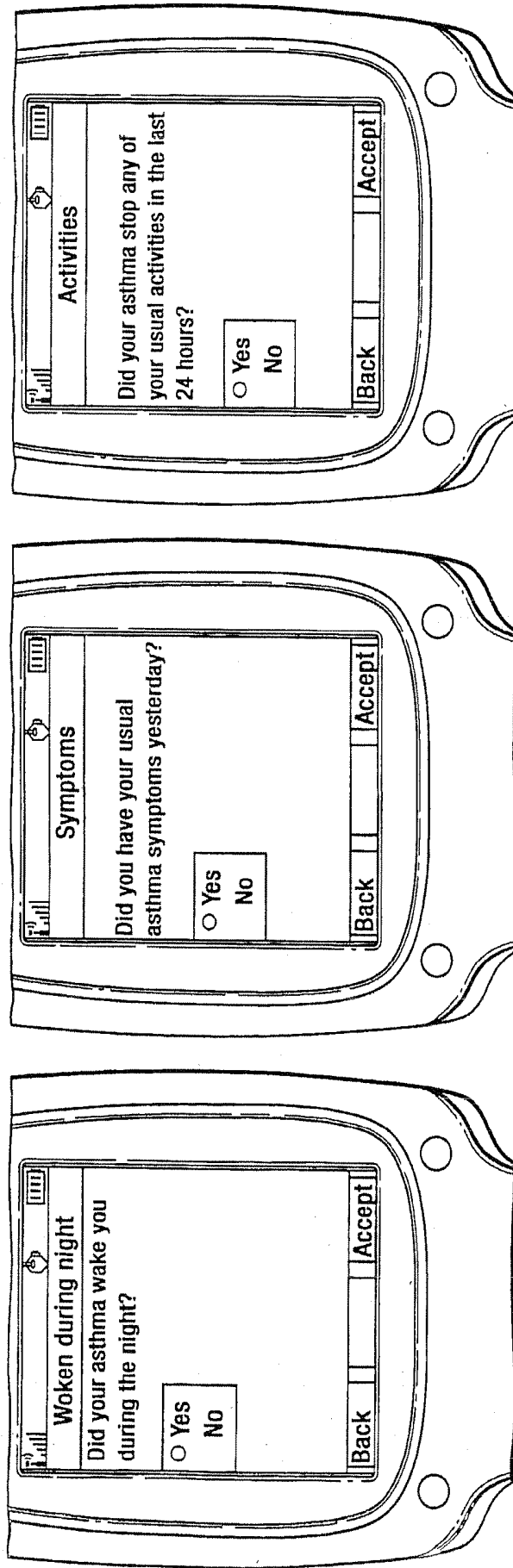


Fig. 7D.

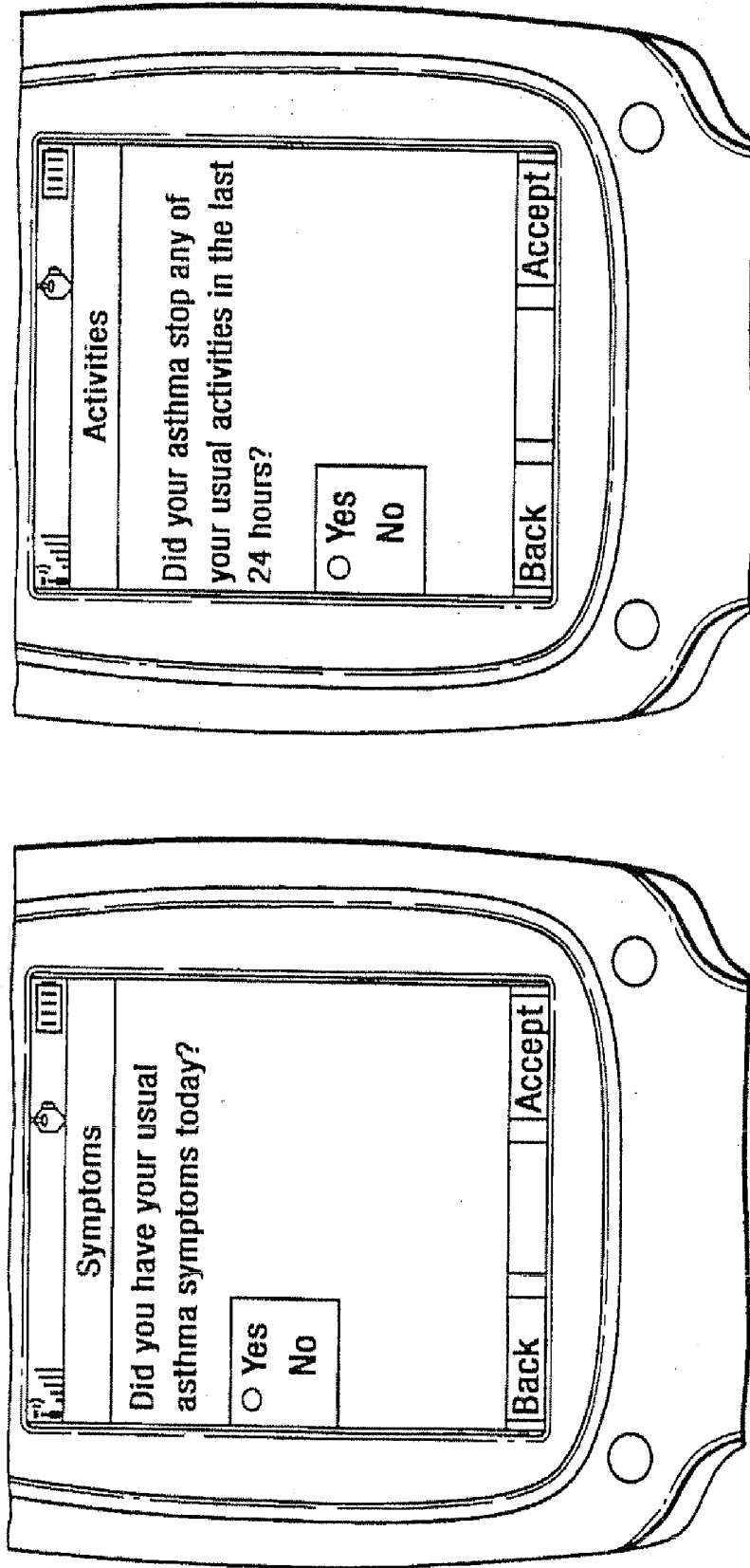


Fig. 7E.

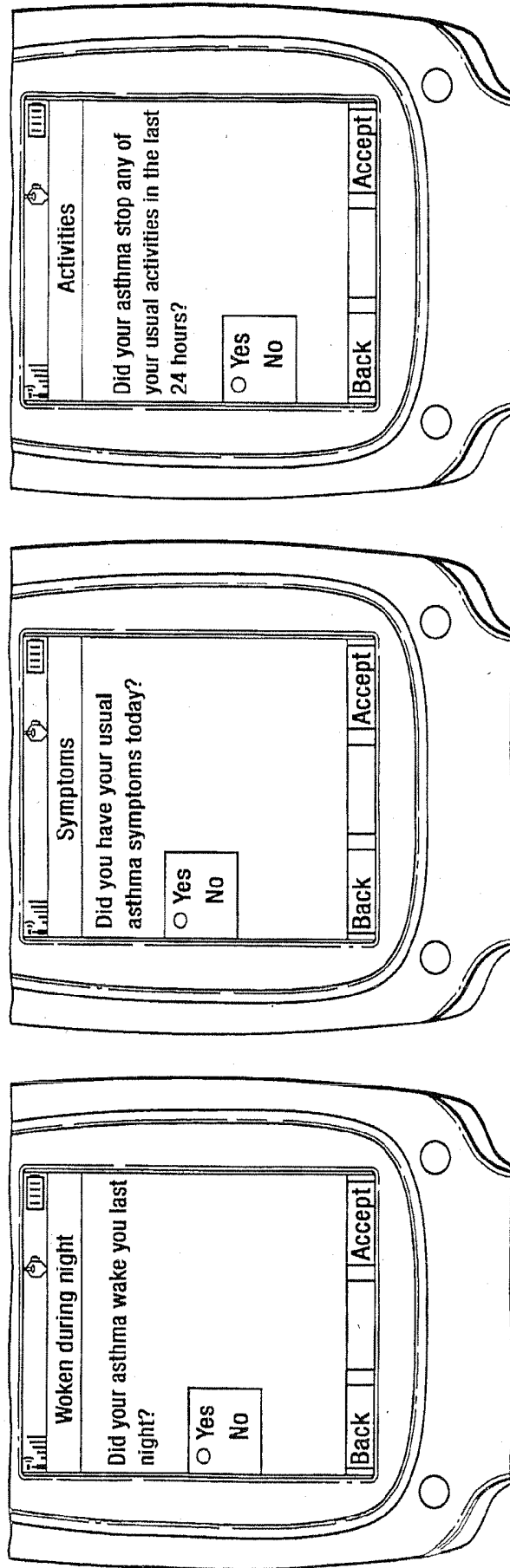


Fig. 7G.

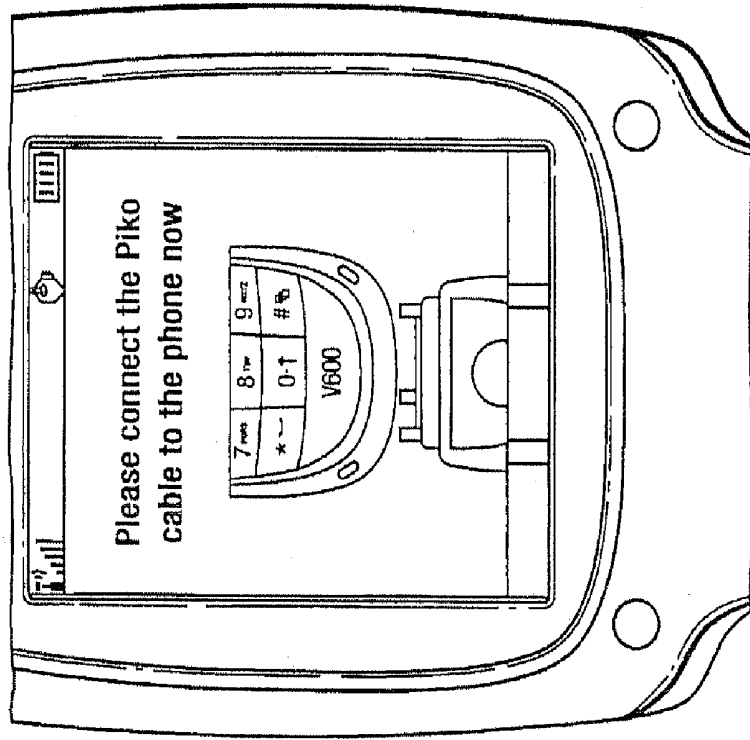


Fig. 7F.

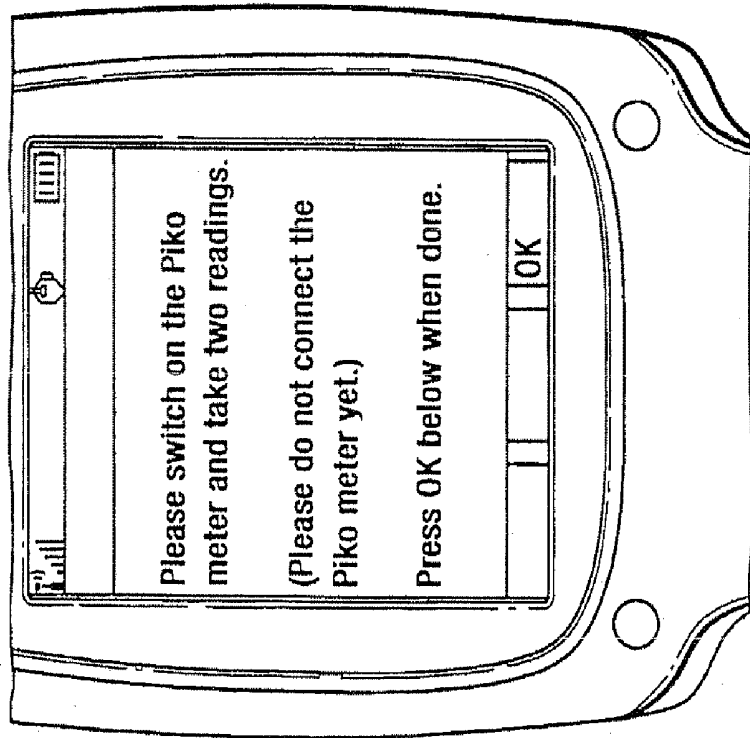
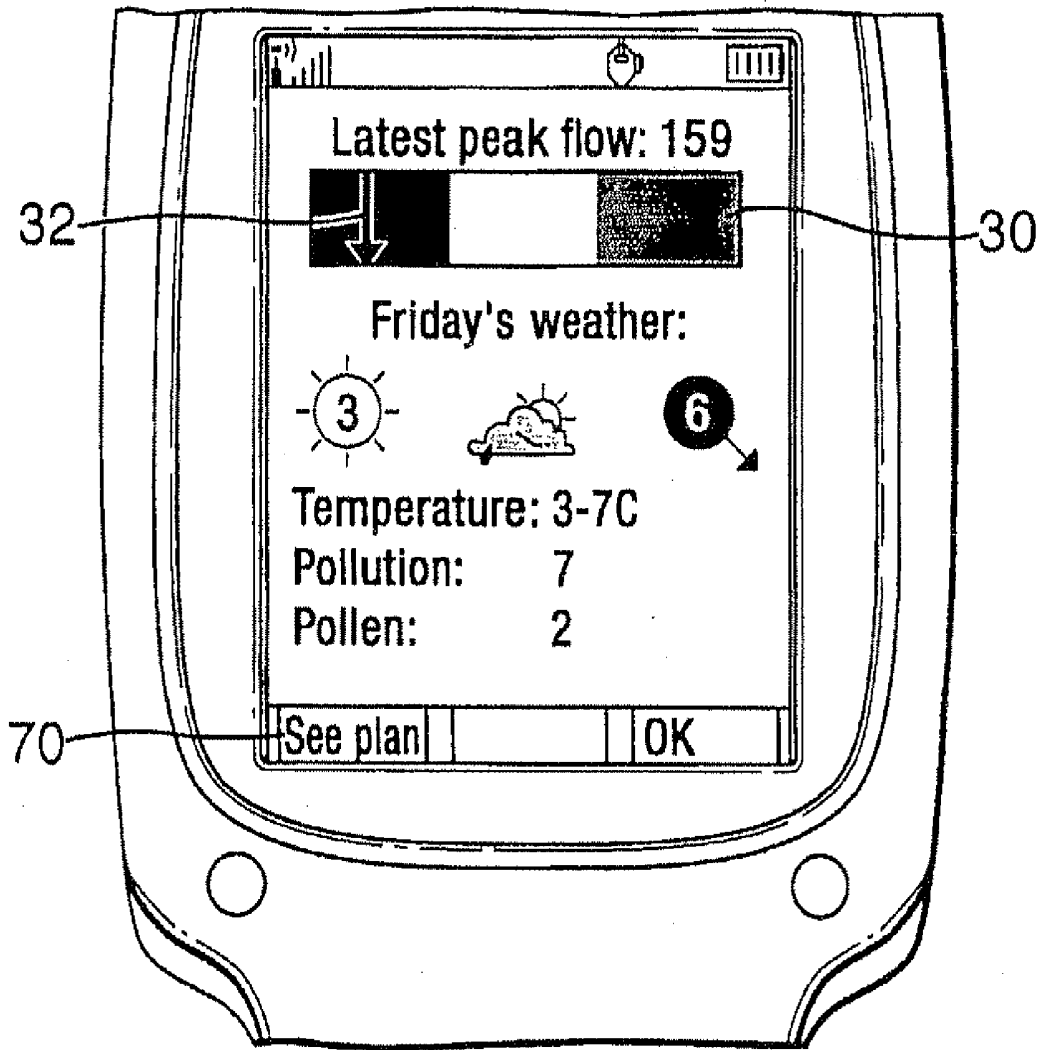


Fig. 7H.



Key: ■ Red
□ Yellow
■ Green

Fig. 7J.

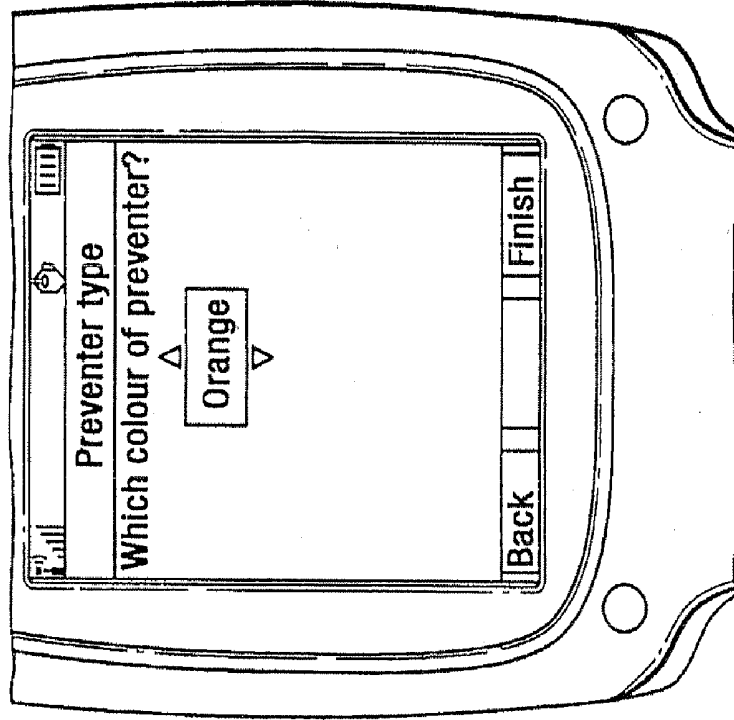


Fig. 7I.

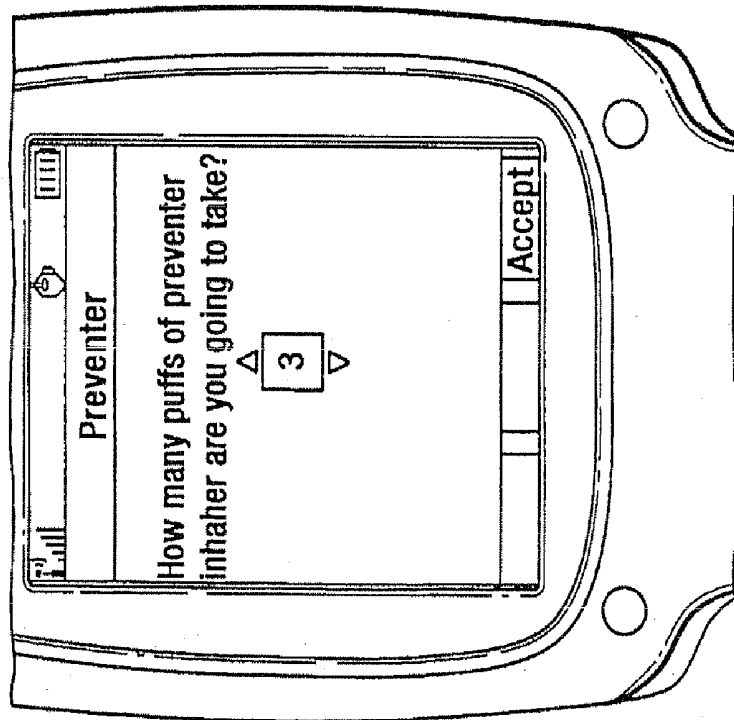
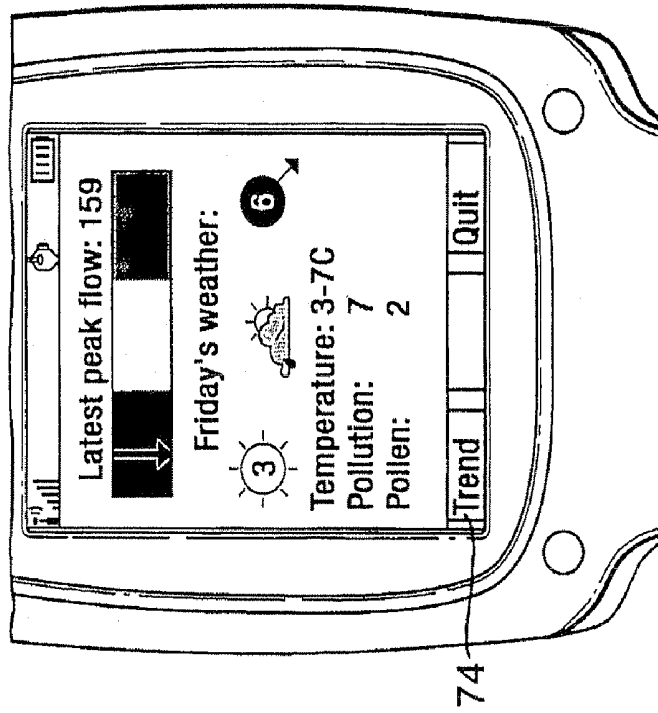


Fig. 7L.



Key:
Red
Yellow
Green

Fig. 7K.

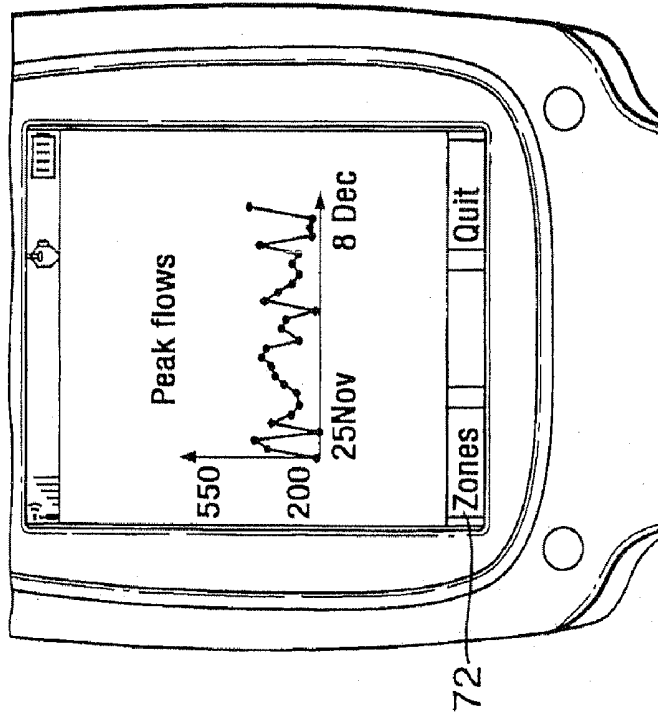


Fig. 7N.

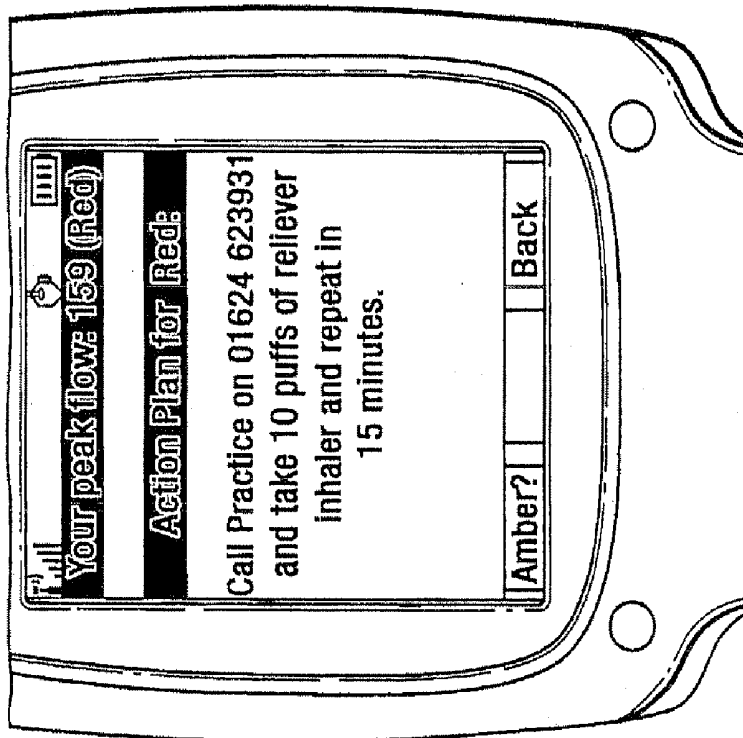
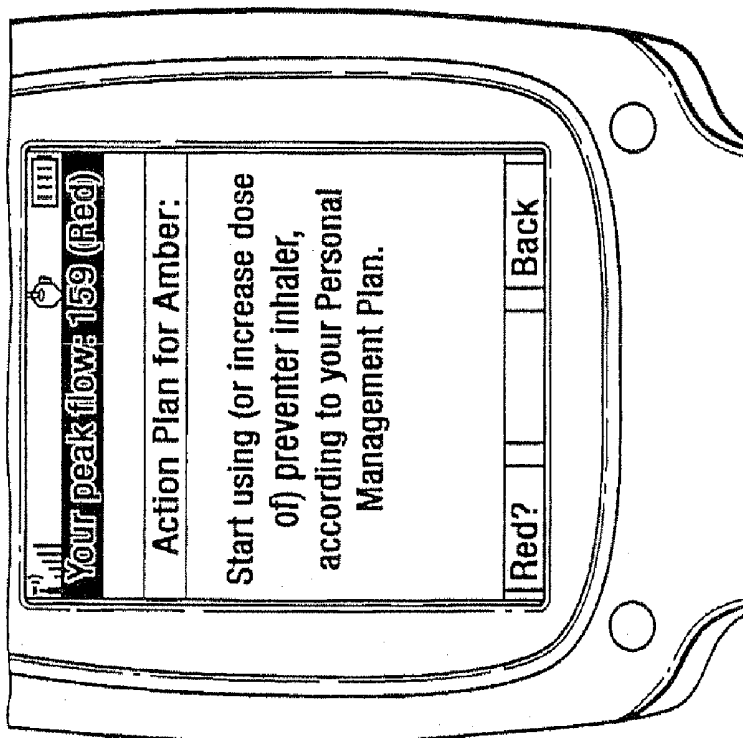


Fig. 7M.



MEDICAL DATA DISPLAY

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/592,802, filed Nov. 30, 2006, pending, which is the U.S. national phase of PCT International Patent Application No. PCT/GB2005/000980 filed Mar. 15, 2005 which designated the U.S. and claims the benefit of Great Britain Patent Application No. 0405798.0 filed Mar. 15, 2004, the entire contents of each of which are hereby incorporated by reference in this application.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

[0002] (NOT APPLICABLE)

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for displaying medical data, particularly data indicative of the current state of a chronic medical condition in a form which can be delivered easily to a patient and is easily understandable by them.

[0004] As many as 20% of the population in the Western world suffer from chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes or hypertension. The management of these conditions represents a significant drain on healthcare budgets and, of course, the conditions themselves cause distress and inconvenience for the sufferers. Traditionally the management of the patient suffering from a chronic condition such as these involves requiring the patient to attend regular medical clinics where they consult with a clinician and on the basis of measurements and observations made by the patients themselves in between the clinics, and on the basis of measurements made at the clinics, the patient's medication can be assessed and adjusted if necessary. A significant amount of self-management and self-discipline is therefore required of the patients in the period between clinics in that they must administer medication to themselves appropriately and must try to observe and record their symptoms correctly.

[0005] For example, asthma is a chronic condition which requires self-management by patients. In this case the self-management is by use of an inhaler administering a pharmacological agent for management of the condition, for example by administration of a drug such as a steroid in powdered form by using an inhaler. Between regular clinics at which the patient's condition is discussed, the patient is required to keep a patient diary in which they record their symptoms, their use of the inhaler, and in which they also record measurements of their condition taken using a device such as a respiratory flow meter for measuring their Peak Expired Flow Rate (PEFR) and forced expired volume (FEV1—integrated volume of air exhaled over the first second). Cystic fibrosis sufferers also make similar measurements of their condition.

[0006] Other chronic conditions such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and hypertension require similar self-management by the patient and regular visits to a clinic or doctor's surgery.

[0007] Another example of a chronic condition which requires self-management is diabetes. Diabetes sufferers have to manage their diet and exercise and if they are insulin-dependent (Type 1 diabetes) or insulin-treated, administer insulin themselves, usually four times a day for Type 1 dia-

betes, recording the dosages and their symptoms and also measuring their blood glucose levels by taking a small blood sample and using a proprietary test device. At the regular clinics the recordal of these activities and the patient diary is monitored, and also a measurement is made of their glycosylated haemoglobin (HbA_{1c}) which gives an indication of the average blood sugar levels over the last three months. While the managing of diabetes from day-to-day is inconvenient for the patient, mis-management of the condition also has long-term consequences for the patient's health. From day-to-day it is important that the patient does not become hypoglycaemic (blood sugar level too low—leading to confusion and fainting), but for the long-term health of the patient it is important that they are not hyperglycaemic (blood sugar level generally too high) because this gives rise to long-term kidney problems, nerve damage, poor circulation, blindness and a high risk of stroke. Thus it would be advantageous to be able to help the patient visualise their day-to-day blood glucose levels.

[0008] For a number of years proposals have been made for so-called "e-health" systems which are variously designed to provide technological solutions for allowing the patient to measure healthcare data (such as peak flows, blood glucose or blood pressure) and record their symptoms, and possibly communicate the recorded data to a clinic. Early proposals based on the use of a telephone for self-reporting with readings transferred onto a home computer by the patient, or a monitoring device connected to a modem for data transmission have not proved in practice to be useful. In such systems data transfer usually occurs once a day at most, and sometimes as infrequently as once a week. The systems generally require the clinicians to review all of the data once a day, or even once a week, but this is time-consuming and bothersome for the clinicians. Furthermore, patients often find it troublesome to transfer readings onto a home computer or Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) and to obtain a suitable connection for transferring the data. This has led to a lack of long-term use of these systems.

[0009] Also, the usefulness of the data presented to patients is limited. In the case of electronic recordal for a diabetes sufferer for example, the most that might be available to a patient is recordal and display of blood glucose levels from day-to-day, for example as illustrated in FIG. 2 of the accompanying drawings. In the display 10 of FIG. 2, the blood glucose levels from day-to-day as measured at four different times of day, namely breakfast, lunch, dinner and bedtime, are indicated in the plots 11, 13, 15 and 17. It can be seen that there is a large variation, but there is no indication of whether this represents good or bad control of their diabetes for that patient.

[0010] It has also been found that there can be a high amount of random variability in the patient's condition with self-management regimes. This may be due to external factors affecting the patient, or to variation in the patient's actions under the regime. For example, asthma is weather and season-dependent (external factors), and the peak flow reading taken by the patient depends on how recently they used their inhaler—e.g. sometimes they use it before the reading and sometimes after. Patients often cannot remember the correct action sequence. Also they may not remember the appropriate action if their readings are abnormal.

[0011] The present applicants have proposed a more convenient system as described in co-pending application no PCT/GB2003/004029, in which a measurement device such

as a peak flow meter or blood glucose meter can be connected directly to a GPRS or 2.5 or 3G mobile telephone, (sometimes known as a smart phone), adapted so as automatically to receive the medical data from the measurement and transmit it without patient intervention to a remote server. The data is processed at the remote server and a reply sent immediately to the patient. This provides significant advantages over earlier systems because it requires little work by the patient, for example no intermediate paper records need to be prepared, the interaction with the telephone is quick and easy because the data is transmitted in real time automatically, and there is immediate clinical feedback to the patient from the remote server. Also, because most of the data generated by patients with chronic conditions are normal, the system can involve the clinician only when readings become abnormal. Therefore it reduces the workload on the clinician as compared with previous proposals. Modern fashion has also resulted in mobile telephones becoming a part of many people's lifestyle and the use of the mobile telephone for healthcare can build on this, resulting in improved self-management. This can improve the control of the patient's condition and their long-term health, and thus have significant benefits for the health of the population.

[0012] FIG. 1 illustrates a display of data recorded for an asthma sufferer in the above system. In an upper part of the display **1** there is a plot of the daily peak flow readings **3**, together with a trend **5** calculated from those daily readings. In the lower part of the display **1** a plot based on the patient's recorded use of the inhaler **7** and a qualitative assessment by the patient of the seriousness of their own symptoms **9**.

[0013] An important part of encouraging patients to improve self-management, though, is to provide the medical data to them in a convenient and easily understandable way. In particular the limitations on screen size in portable electronic devices such as mobile telephones, make this especially difficult. A display such as that shown in FIG. 1 cannot easily be fitted onto a small screen. Displays such as that shown in FIG. 2 are difficult to understand and do not give any indication of how the use of the pharmacological agent (insulin) is controlling the medical condition.

[0014] There is therefore a need for improved displays of medical data, which give easier indications of the readings taken and of their significance.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0015] In accordance with a first aspect the present invention provides a method of displaying values of a parameter indicative of a medical condition, comprising displaying a first graphical device indicating values of the parameter representative of a patient-specific model of normality for that parameter, and displaying a second graphical device against the first graphical device at a display position representative of a current value of the parameter.

[0016] The patient-specific model of normality may be dynamic, for example varying with patient condition on a relatively slow time scale, such as over a period of two or more months. The current value of the parameter may also be based on a plurality of actual measurements, for example an average of several closely repeated measurements taken one after the other, or measurements taken over a short recent time period, such as two weeks or so. Thus the patient-specific model of normality may reflect the patient condition over a first, relatively long time period whereas the current value

may represent the values of the parameter over a second, shorter and more recent time period.

[0017] As one example, in the monitoring of the condition of a patient suffering from asthma, the model of normality may reflect the condition over the last three months, which is long enough to be stable, but short enough to vary with seasonal variations in condition. It is also possible for the model automatically to take into account such external factors as the weather, season or pollen count.

[0018] The current value may be calculated from three peak flow readings taken one after the other on a particular day. In the case of the monitoring of diabetes, on the other hand, the display could comprise a colour-coded histogram showing a predetermined time period (reflecting the current state of the patient), while the colour-coding may indicate the areas of hypo and hyperglycemia defined for that patient with regard to their normal degree of control as judged over a longer time period. The definition of the predetermined period will vary according to the patient; for example for someone with Type I diabetes, it may be two weeks. On the other hand, for someone with Type II diabetes, who monitors much less regularly, it may be two months. The system is capable of self-adapting to the frequency of readings taken by the patient and to display the most appropriate time period accordingly.

[0019] The patient-specific model of normality may be judged on the basis of a trend value of the parameter, such as the Kalman filtered value (see for example: PCT/GB2003/004029). For example, the patient-specific model of normality may comprise thresholds based on percentages of the average value of the trend, calculated over the last 3 months, assuming that the last 3 months data have all been normal. (Abnormal data are excluded from the calculation of the normal trend value. This may be done by excluding values below a threshold, e.g. 90% of the values so far recorded.) For example, in the case of asthma monitoring, a moderate warning, serious warning and clinician alert values may be calculated as increasingly smaller percentages of the normal average trend value.

[0020] The first graphical device may represent a scale against which the second graphical device is displayed. The scale may be colour-coded and/or numerical and the second graphical device can represent a pointer displayed against the scale.

[0021] The patient-specific model of normality may be calculated or learnt from measured values of the parameter, or may be established by a clinician assessing the patient condition. As indicated above, external factors (such as weather in the case of asthma) can be included in the model.

[0022] Examples of the parameter for some specific medical conditions are: a Peak Expired Flow Rate (PEFR) or Forced Expired Volume (FEV1), a blood glucose measurement or a blood pressure measurement.

[0023] This aspect of the invention also provides apparatus for displaying medical data in accordance with the method described above. The apparatus can comprise a meter for measuring the current value of the parameter (for example a peak flow meter or blood glucose meter), and a wireless communications device, such as a mobile telephone, for communicating with a remote server. The remote server can store the data and can also process the data and provide the output for display on the patient device. It may also adapt the patient-specific model (e.g. lower the upper threshold of target blood glucose reading or cope with seasonal variations in peak flow measurements).

[0024] A second aspect of the invention provides a method of displaying data indicative of the control of a medical condition by administration of a pharmacologically active agent, comprising:

[0025] acquiring as said data a plurality of sets of measured values of a parameter indicative of said medical condition, each set comprising a plurality of measured values of said parameter during a predetermined time period, and a plurality of sets of values of administration of said pharmacologically active agent, each set comprising a plurality of administration values during each of said predetermined time periods;

[0026] displaying in a first display area a plot of the measured values of the parameter from all of said sets against a time axis representing a single predetermined time period;

[0027] displaying in a second, adjacent display area a time plot of the values of administrations of said pharmacologically active agent from all of said sets against a time axis representing a single predetermined time period;

[0028] displaying a visual link between each pair of displayed values formed by an administration value and the measured value of the parameter corresponding to response of the medical condition to that administration, said visual link being common for corresponding pairs from each of the sets and visually-distinguishing the different pairs in each set from each other.

[0029] This aspect of the invention is particularly useful in forming an educational tool whereby the quality of control of the condition by use of the pharmacological agent can be easily seen over a period of time.

[0030] The visual link can comprise colour coding of the plotted values and, to assist understanding, the time axes in the two display areas are preferably aligned. The predetermined time period may be a day and the corresponding pairs from each set may be pairs that temporally correspond, for example being at the same time of day, or being related to the same respective activities during the day (such as the same meals and bedtime).

[0031] This aspect of the invention also provides apparatus for displaying such data in this way.

[0032] In both aspects of the invention the processing of the data for display and the control of the display itself may be embodied in suitable software which runs as an executable application on an electronic device, and optionally at a remote server too. Thus it may run as an application on a mobile telephone or PDA or other portable electronic device. The invention therefore extends to a computer program which when loaded on a suitable device executes the display according to the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0033] The invention will be further described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

[0034] FIG. 1 illustrates a prior art display of an asthma sufferer's condition;

[0035] FIG. 2 illustrates a prior art display of blood glucose measurements for diabetes management;

[0036] FIGS. 3(A) and (B) illustrate a first embodiment of the invention for displaying data relating to an asthma sufferer's condition;

[0037] FIGS. 4(A), (B) and (C) illustrate a second embodiment of the invention for displaying data related to blood glucose control of a diabetes sufferer;

[0038] FIG. 5 illustrates a third embodiment of the invention for displaying further data related to a diabetes sufferer's condition;

[0039] FIG. 6 illustrates a fourth embodiment of the invention, also relating to a diabetes sufferer's condition management; and

[0040] FIGS. 7A to 7N illustrate a sequence of displays in use of one embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0041] FIGS. 3(A) and (B) illustrate alternative versions of a display according to a first embodiment of the invention for use by an asthma sufferer. The display consists of a first graphical element **30** in the form of a scale colour-coded from red at the left-hand side through amber and yellow to green at the right-hand side. FIG. 3(A) shows an arcuate version of the scale and FIG. 3(B) a straight version. As will be explained below, the scale is not fixed but is based on a model of normality for the particular patient. It therefore differs from a traditional fixed scale or a representation of such a fixed scale. The display includes a second graphical element **32**, in this case in the form of a needle, which is used to indicate the current, i.e. today's, condition of the patient. This display is based on indicating to the patient a peak flow reading as obtained from a peak flow meter.

[0042] The second graphical element **32**, the needle, will be displayed pointing to a position on the scale representing the current peak flow value. Normally a peak flow reading is taken by the patient conducting three measurements in quick succession, i.e. blowing into the peak flow meter three times in succession, and then the average of the three readings can be taken, or the best of the three can be taken. This becomes the current reading and it is this which the needle displays.

[0043] The first graphical element, namely the scale **30**, is a model of normality for the patient which is based on calculation of a trend of relatively recent peak flow readings. The trend may be calculated during an initial learning period (for example a month) in which the best peak flow readings (excluding outliers) are used to set the 100% value. It can also be made adaptive by using a Kalman filter to reflect the long-term trend (such as 3 or 6 months). The scale is then calculated and displayed with the green (right-hand end) set at 100% of the best peak flow value, the green to amber transition at 75% of this value, the amber to red transition at 50% of this value. A GP alert value at 75% may be indicated on the scale as shown by label **33** in FIG. 3(B), being the value at which a message is sent automatically to a clinician alerting them to a significant worsening in patient condition. Of course, different percentage values may be chosen. To initialise the device a learning set of 30 days readings may be used, or standard default values, these being replaced as the Kalman filtered trend values resulting from normal daily readings become available.

[0044] The model may also include as a parameter a score based on the patient's own assessment of condition, taken from a patient diary as explained below.

[0045] Comparing this display to the top plot in FIG. 1, therefore, it can be seen that as the trend **5** varies, the actual value represented by the colour background may vary. This corresponds to the patient-specific model of normality varying with time. For example, in the Spring or Summer or when air pollution is bad, causing symptoms generally to be bad,

the 100% position on the scale may represent a much lower peak flow reading than at a time when the patient's condition is generally good.

[0046] In the embodiment described above the scale is set according to the model of normality for measurements on that patient. Alternatively, however, the scale can be judged from standard data suitable for that patient judged from the population. Thus the scale would differ according to the sex, weight, age and so on of the patient.

[0047] FIGS. 3(A) and (B) illustrate a further feature in that the display includes information relevant to the patient's condition such as weather 36 and air quality 34. This can be adapted to the location of the patient using the GPS data available in GPRS telephones, or the cell data in a normal cellular telephone system. The availability of this data allows it to be incorporated into the model if desired. For example, a greater degree of variability in the patient's condition can be expected in cold weather or if the pollen count is high. The model can take this into account and enlarge the scale shown in anticipation of higher variability.

[0048] FIGS. 4(A) to (C) illustrate a second embodiment of the invention which is useful for diabetes sufferers. In FIGS. 4(A), (B) and (C) the display shows a histogram 40 of blood glucose measurements taken by the patient. Thus the blood glucose value is plotted along the horizontal axis, with the frequency of occurrence of that value plotted vertically. The histogram contains the most recent 2 weeks worth of readings (usually 56 readings at 4 readings per day). The horizontal axis is autoscaled so as to show the full range of readings obtained. Thus a patient with good blood glucose control will tend to see a smaller range of values on the horizontal axis (0-16 in FIG. 4A) than a patient with less good control (0-20 in FIG. 4B) or poor control (0-23 in FIG. 4C). The histogram is also colour-coded according to a patient specific model of normality, in this case comprising thresholds for hypo and hyperglycemia for that patient. These target thresholds are set by a clinician by agreement with the patient on the basis of the patient's history of blood glucose control.

[0049] Thus a transition from green to blue (indicating hypoglycemia) may be set normally somewhere between BG values of 3 and 7. The transition from green to red (indicating hyperglycemia) may be set normally somewhere between 9 and 16. These values may be set at a clinic by a clinician, and a new patient with poor control may have the target thresholds set more widely than a patient with experience—who has demonstrated better control.

[0050] A patient, therefore, whose blood sugar level is not being controlled properly may see a range from 0 to 25, most of which will be red. As their condition becomes better controlled (e.g. they become better at controlling diet or judging insulin dose), the range displayed will gradually narrow down until it is from 0 to 20 or 0 to 16 as illustrated, when green will be in the middle and most readings, and thus most of the histogram, will be green. So viewing the histogram gives an immediate indication of current condition.

[0051] At a clinic, the target thresholds may be adjusted (e.g. the hyperglycaemic target threshold reduced), so that the colours on the histogram reflect the model of normality for that patient.

[0052] As mentioned above, one of the problems in self management plans is that patients may not follow rigorously the actions prescribed for them. Further, they may forget the details of their self management plan. This embodiment of the invention allows the agreed healthcare plan to be stored on the

patient's device (e.g. telephone) so that the patient can refer to it at any time. The plan can be updated by automatic updates from the server. Further, the clinician can include a reminder to be displayed in response to certain values of the measurements made by the patient. For example, if the patient's condition deteriorates, they can be reminded what action to take, such as increase the use of the reliever/inhaler in the case of asthma, or if the patient's condition becomes dangerous, they can be reminded what emergency action to take, such as contacting a healthcare professional and/or administering an emergency dose of their medication.

[0053] The variability in the following of the plan by the patient can be reduced by providing for the display to guide the patient with a particular workflow. This workflow should follow a "measurement-evaluate-act" sequence so that the patient first measures their condition, then this measurement is evaluated (with the assistance of the automatic processing and display of the data) and then the appropriate action is taken, again with the assistance of the agreed plan accessed on the display.

[0054] An example workflow, for the asthma monitoring embodiment, is as follows:

[0055] 1) The patient starts the application on their telephone.

[0056] 2) The patient is presented with a screen such as that shown in FIG. 7(A) asking how many puffs of reliever of inhaler he/she has used during the last 12 hours.

[0057] 3) The patient is then asked to grade their asthma symptoms using three questions:

[0058] (i) "did your asthma wake you during the night/last night?";

[0059] (ii) "did you have your usual asthma symptoms today/yesterday?";

[0060] (iii) "did your asthma stop any of your usual activities in the last 24 hours?";

[0061] The questions are tailored depending on the time of day and the previous entries by the patient. For example, depending on whether the patient uses the application both in the morning or evening, or just once in a 24 hour period, they will be asked one, two or three questions. In fact, there are four cases, namely:

[0062] Case 1—in which the patient is taking a reading in the morning and has taken one the previous evening (in this case the display of FIG. 7B only is shown);

[0063] Case 2—in which the patient is taking a reading in the morning and has not taken one the previous evening (in which case the three questions as illustrated in FIG. 7C are displayed in sequence);

[0064] Case 3—in which the patient is taking a reading in the evening and has taken one that morning (in which case the two questions displayed in FIG. 7D are displayed in sequence); and

[0065] Case 4—in which the patient is taking a reading in the evening and has not taken one that morning (in which case the three questions shown in FIG. 7E are displayed in sequence).

[0066] The answers to these questions can be used to give a score of the severity of the symptoms. This score can be displayed separately, for example as shown at 9 in FIG. 1, or can be used to adjust the model of normality for the patient, or can be displayed in a similar manner to the peak flows as shown by 30 and 32 in FIG. 3A.

[0067] 4) The patient is asked to switch on the peak flow meter and take an appropriate number of readings as shown by the display of FIG. 7F.

[0068] 5) The patient is then asked to connect the peak flow meter to the telephone as shown by the display in FIG. 7G. This connection can be automatic and wireless using for example the "Bluetooth"® protocol.

[0069] 6) A personalised display of the patient's condition is shown, together with local external conditions such as weather and air quality, as shown in FIG. 7H.

[0070] 7) The display of FIG. 7H includes a button 70 which allows the patient to access their agreed treatment plan. For example, an appropriate part of the agreed treatment plan may be displayed in dependence upon the current measurement of the patient's condition. FIG. 7M shows an example of the treatment plan in the case that the patient's condition is in a warning zone, and in this example recommends an increased dosage of medicament. FIG. 7N illustrates an example of a part of the treatment plan appropriate for a reading showing that the patient's condition is dangerous, in this case an emergency administration of medicament together with a recommendation to contact a clinician.

[0071] On exiting the treatment plan, the patient is then asked to input what action they are going to take by means of the displays shown in FIGS. 7I and 7J. In this case this involves indicating how many puffs of preventor inhaler will be administered and of which type.

[0072] 8) The readings or the best reading from the patient's measurement of their condition in step 4 is then transmitted to the server.

[0073] 9) Finally, the feedback screens of FIGS. 7K and 7L are shown interchangeably. In FIG. 7K the trend of recent readings is illustrated but this display can be changed to the personalised display of FIG. 7L using the "zones" button 72. The trend may be accessed from the personalised display of FIG. 7L by using the "trend" button 74.

[0074] The patient-specific model of normality is maintained on the patient's device (e.g. telephone) so that in the event of a loss of connectivity to the server, at least the personalised display of FIG. 7L can be shown, possibly absent the local condition (weather) data which is delivered from the server. The patient's readings are stored for later transmission to the server when connectivity is restored.

[0075] It can be seen that the workflow provided by the display encourages the patient to use the measure-evaluate-act sequence which assists in a more consistent assessment and control of the patient's condition.

[0076] FIG. 5 illustrates another display 50 useful for diabetes sufferers. In this case the patient has taken four blood sugar measurements through the day which are labeled 51, 52, 53 and 54 and these are plotted against time of day on the horizontal axis and blood sugar level on the vertical axis. However, the display also illustrates two target thresholds 55 and 57 which represent the limits of acceptable blood glucose level for this patient as discussed above. Thus 57 is the lower acceptable value of blood glucose (the green to blue transition above) and 55 is the upper acceptable value (the green to red transition above). The lower value is set to avoid hypoglycaemia. The upper level is the current target threshold for hyperglycaemia agreed with that patient. An advantage of displaying the upper threshold (and the red area in the histogram) is that the patient knows that if many of their daily blood glucose measurements are near or exceed the level on the display at

which the upper limit 55 is set, their glycosylated haemoglobin (HbA1c) is likely to rise over time above the accepted level.

[0077] Because in FIGS. 3(A), 3(B), 4(A) to (C) and 5 the display shows a model of normality which is tailored to the specific patient, the best use can be made of a limited display area in showing a patient data which is relevant to him or her, without needing to allow, in the display, area for showing data suitable for all patients.

[0078] Thus it is suitable for the compact displays found on portable electronic devices such as PDAs and mobile telephones, though the display is not, of course, limited to this.

[0079] In the case of a telemedicine system the readings taken at the patient end may be transmitted to a server and a response sent to the patient which includes the patient-specific model of normality (the server storing a model for each patient). Thus the background of the display may be based on data at the server, while the current value is based on the reading at the patient end. The new readings are added to the data for that patient at the server, of course, and may be used to adapt the model of normality dynamically (e.g. in the display of FIGS. 3(A) and (B) by contributing to the trend calculation).

[0080] FIG. 6 illustrates a fourth embodiment of the invention which is useful as an educational tool for helping diabetes patients improve their control of their condition by adjusting their insulin dosage. As shown in FIG. 6 the display 60 has an upper pane 61 and a lower pane 62. In the upper pane 61 a horizontal scale corresponding to a single twenty four hour day is shown. The vertical scale plots blood glucose level. Each of the blood glucose readings taken by the patient over a period of many days (four weeks in FIG. 6) is plotted on the same plot at the appropriate point for the time of day and blood glucose level. Furthermore, all of the readings which correspond to the same time of day are colour-coded. For example, all of the readings at breakfast time are coloured red, at lunchtime coloured blue, at dinnertime coloured green and at bedtime coloured purple. It will be seen that some of the dinnertime readings are at a time of day which, on other days, has corresponded to bedtime. This is normal and the readings can be characterised as dinner or bedtime by requiring the patient to indicate which it is when entering the data, or by judging whether it is the second, third, fourth or fifth reading of the day and the time of day of generation of the reading.

[0081] The display also includes a lower pane 62 which plots insulin dosage as input by the patient. The dosage of insulin is plotted vertically and, again, the horizontal axis represents a single 24 hour period. The insulin dosages for each day over the same period are plotted, and are again colour-coded according to the time of administration, namely breakfast, lunch, dinner or bedtime. It will be seen by the colour-coding that the insulin administered at breakfast time controls the blood glucose level as measured at lunchtime. The insulin administered at lunchtime controls the blood glucose levels at dinnertime. That at dinnertime controls the level at bedtime and that administered at bedtime (usually a much higher administration to last through the night) controls the level of blood sugar as measured the next morning. The use of the colour-coding as a visual link between the two plots makes it simple for the patient to see the connection between the insulin administration and the corresponding control of blood glucose.

[0082] To improve the patient's condition the aim is to keep the blood glucose level stable, and thus to avoid large vertical

scatter of blood glucose level in each group. FIG. 6 illustrates a rather large scatter of blood glucose level in each group, thus indicating poor control. It can be seen that the insulin dosage is very stable (the scatter in dosage in each of the insulin administration groups is small). Thus in the illustrated case the patient can easily see that they are not varying the insulin dosage sufficiently to control the blood glucose level stably. A patient who is better at control would have a larger scatter of insulin dosages (i.e. the groups in the lower plot would be more spread out vertically), and have much tighter vertically distributed groups in the upper plots 61.

[0083] Therefore the combination of using a visual link, in this case colour coding, between the measurement of the parameter representing patient's condition (blood glucose level) and the administration of pharmacological agent to control that condition (insulin), together with the plotting of several days of data on the same plot make a good educational tool in which the patient can easily see whether they are successfully controlling their condition.

1. A method of displaying values of a parameter indicative of a medical condition, comprising displaying a first graphical device indicating values of the parameter representative of a patient-specific model of normality for that parameter, and displaying a second graphical device against the first graphical device at a display position representative of a current value of the parameter.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the patient-specific model of normality is dynamic, varying with patient condition.

3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the patient-specific model of normality varies with changes in patient condition over a period of two or more months.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the patient-specific model of normality is based on values of the parameter over a first time period, the second graphical device is displayed at a display position representative of values of the parameter over a second time period, the second time period being shorter and more recent than the first.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein the current value of the parameter is derived from a plurality of closely repeated measurements of the parameter.

6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the plurality of closely repeated measurements are averaged to produce the current value.

7. A method according to claim 1 wherein patient-specific model of normality is based on Kalman filtered measurements of said parameter.

8. A method according to claim 1 wherein the first graphical device represents a scale against which said second graphical device is displayed.

9. A method according to claim 1 wherein the first graphical device comprises a colour-coded scale against which said second graphical device is displayed.

10. A method according to claim 8 wherein the first graphical device comprises a numerical scale against which said second graphical device is displayed.

11. A method according to claim 8 wherein the second graphical device represents pointer displayed against the scale.

12. A method according to claim 1 wherein the second graphical device is a histogram.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein the histogram plots values of the parameter, the first graphical device comprising a colour-coding of values of the parameter forming one axis of the histogram.

14. A method according to claim 1 wherein the second graphical device represents values of said parameter over a time period selected in accordance with the medical condition.

15. A method according to claim 14 wherein said time period depends on the frequency of measurement of said parameter.

16. A method according to claim 1 wherein the second graphical device comprises upper and lower threshold values of said parameter.

17. A method according to claim 1 wherein the patient-specific model of normality is calculated from measured values of the parameter.

18. A method according to claim 1 wherein the patient-specific model of normality is learnt from measured values of the parameter.

19. A method according to claim 1 wherein the patient-specific model of normality is based on clinician assessment of the patient condition.

20. A method according to claim 1 wherein the parameter is one of: Peak Expiratory Flow Rate (PEFR) or Forced Expiratory Volume (FEV1), a blood glucose measurement; a blood pressure measurement.

21. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of displaying geographically-based information relevant to the patient's condition and location.

22. A method according to claim 1 wherein the patient-specific model of normality takes into account environmental conditions.

23. A method according to claim 22 wherein the environmental factors comprise at least one of the local weather, pollen count and air quality.

24. A method according to claim 1 further comprising displaying an interactive patient guide for guiding the patient to adopt a predetermined workflow in monitoring their condition by measuring said parameter.

25. A method according to claim 1 further comprising displaying an aspect of an agreed treatment plan, said aspect being selected in accordance with the value of said parameter.

26. Apparatus for displaying values of a parameter indicative of a medical condition, the apparatus comprising a display and a display controller, the display controller being adapted to control the display in accordance with the method of claim 1.

27. Apparatus according to claim 26 further comprising a meter for measuring the current value of the parameter.

28. Apparatus according to claim 26 further comprising a wireless communications device for communicating with a remote database storing values of said first and second parameter and for receiving therefrom the values to display.

29. Apparatus according to claim 26 wherein the wireless communications device is a mobile telephone.

30. Apparatus according to claim 28 wherein the wireless communications device automatically transmits the measured value of the second parameter to the remote database.

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申请(专利权)人(译)	E-SAN LTD.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	E-SAN LTD.		
[标]发明人	TARASSENKO LIONEL HAYTON PAUL MICHAEL GEORGE ALASTAIR WILLIAM		
发明人	TARASSENKO, LIONEL HAYTON, PAUL MICHAEL GEORGE, ALASTAIR WILLIAM		
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摘要(译)

一种显示医学数据的方法，特别是代表患有慢性疾病例如哮喘，糖尿病和高血压的患者状况的数据。显示器由两个图形元素组成，其中一个图形元素指示指示患者状况的参数的当前值，这是针对另一个图形元素显示的，该图形元素表示该患者的正常模型。指示当前状况的图形元素可以是例如针，针对根据患者特定的正常模型构建的标度。这在具有小显示区域的显示器的情况下特别有利，例如移动电话和PDA。其他形式公开了显示器，例如显示器被动态地颜色编码和自动缩放的直方图，或包括可以改变的限制的显示器。还公开了另一种形式的展示，其示出了药理学试剂的施用和患者状况的相应测量，其中视觉链接例如颜色编码将施用与相应的条件测量联系起来。例如，几天的胰岛素给药剂量可以与几天的血糖测量一起显示，给药颜色编码为相应的血糖测量值，以帮助患者确定胰岛素给药是否稳定地控制他们的条件。

