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(54) **Wrist band**

(57) The invention provides for a medical wrist band (1), specifically for infants and babies, which is econom-

ical to manufacture, durable, easy on the skin, does not cause allergic reactions and cannot be removed and re-applied without being damaged.

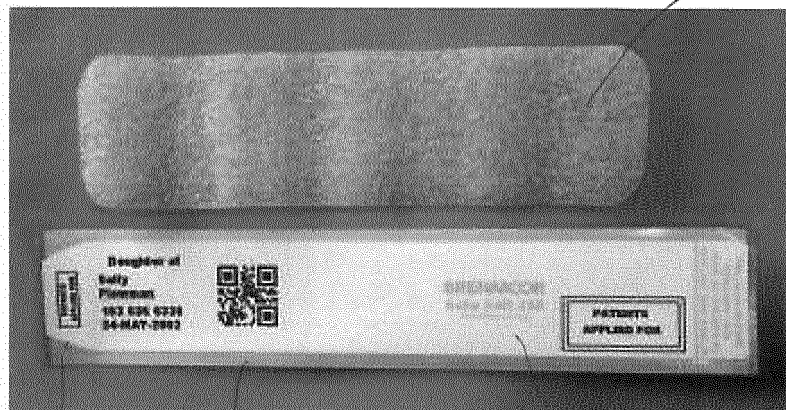


Figure 1

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Description

[0001] This invention relates to wrist bands, such as are nowadays applied to every patient upon admission to hospital. Such wrist bands are well known and normally consist of a thermal, laser or inkjet printable plastic strap which is fastened to the patients' wrists detailing the person's ID and treatments.

[0002] The plastic strap is strong enough to survive several weeks of wear and tear on patients' wrists and normally is only replaced after a surgical intervention or other procedure that changes the patient's data.

[0003] It has been found, however, that the standard wrist bands are not suitable for infants and babies. The edges of the plastic can rub and cut the baby's skin leading to unnecessary medical complications.

[0004] A solution is known from US2006/0218837 A1 (J M Riley). It involves using a band of Velcro (™) which can be looped around the infant's wrist and joined with a printable label attached to the outside of the Velcro band. The label has two slots by means of which it can be attached to the tongue which has the hook part of the Velcro on its inside. There is however, a problem with such Velcro strips. By definition, they are easily removable and the printable label can easily be removed from the Velcro band.

[0005] Since babies and infants are normally not in a position to offer explanations to staff, wrist band switches are not easily spotted and can lead to mistaken identities with all the consequences of such a mix up. What is more, the "Riley" solution is vulnerable to malicious interference which can go undetected for considerable time. A further factor speaking against the Velcro (Riley) solution is cost.

[0006] The invention provides a wrist band as set out in claim 1. It is directed at remedying the above mentioned problems. It is to create a wrist band which can be used for babies and infants, is economical to manufacture, durable, easy on the skin, does not cause allergic reactions and, most importantly, cannot be removed and reapplied without being damaged.

[0007] The band is made from latex free inert plastic foam sheeting section of about 1.5 mm thickness and may be any length or width required. The foam could also be substituted with another soft material such as fabric.

[0008] The complete wrist band consists of the main foam section of appropriate length, depending on the size of the patient, and a sticky plasticized printable label which can be preprinted or printed on demand. The sticky label is peeled off its backing strip and attached to surface of one end of the shaped foam. The foam is wrapped around the patient's wrist and the sticky label wound over the top onto the foam. The label adheres to the foam and back onto its own surface which forms a continuous loop of the label around the patient's wrist to hold the whole together and ensuring only the foam is in contact with the wrist.

[0009] The glue on the plasticized strip is such that it will not peel away from the foam without tearing and

showing signs of tampering. There is also the option to add security cuts into the strip which are designed to tear if the product is tampered with.

[0010] The invention has been described by means of the baby example. The extent of the invention covers adult patients as well as infants. It can be used anywhere where allergic reactions are likely that make the use of the standard wrist band unsuitable. Naturally, the band can also be used as ankle bands where appropriate, as with very small babies or patients with thinning and delicate skin due to age or illness.

Description of figures.

[0011]

Figure 1 shows the constituent parts of the baby-soft wrist band 1. The foam strip 4 is wrapped around the wrist or ankle of the infant, the label 2 is peeled off its backing strip 3 and wraps around the foam 4 and sticks onto itself. An easy way of applying the wrist band 1 is to partially peel the label 2 off its backing, press the peeled off end onto the foam 4 at one end and wrap the foam 4 around the body part by means of the end of the label 2 and stick down the label 2 onto itself thus wrapping the whole of the foam band 4 in the label 2. As can be seen from figure 1, the label 2 is longer than the foam band 4 to ensure that the label 2 can stick down upon itself and completely surrounding the foam band 4.

Figure 2 shows the result of that operation, without the infant's body part being shown.

Claims

1. A hospital style identification wrist or ankle band, specifically but not exclusively designed for infants and babies comprising two strips of material of equal or unequal length to be joined together to form said wrist band, wherein said first strip consists of an inert Latex free foam and said second strip consists of a plasticised elongated label comprising an adhesive backing covered by a support layer and an area for printing patient or similar information upon, wherein the foam strip is sufficiently wider than the plasticised strip to avoid said plasticised strip coming into contact with the patient's skin.
2. A hospital style identification wrist or ankle band according to claim 1 wherein said wrist band is assembled by partially peeling the plasticised strip off its backing support to expose part of the adhesive surface, pressing said inert foam onto the exposed adhesive surface, wrapping said foam around the wrist or ankle of the infant to be identified and finally wrapping the plasticised strip around the foam and over-

lapping it onto the other end of said plasticised strip itself, thus forming said wrist band securely and irremovably on the wrist or ankle of the person to be identified.

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3. A hospital style identification wrist or ankle band according to claim 1 wherein said elongated plasticised strip is printable on by laser, thermal or inkjet printers at or just before the moment of use.

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4. A hospital style identification wrist or ankle band according to claim 1 wherein said foam strip is fashioned from sheeting of about 2 to 3 mm thickness.

5. A hospital style identification wrist or ankle band according to claim 1 wherein its overall length varies so as to make it suitable for adults, teenagers and infants.

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6. A hospital style identification wrist or ankle band according to claim 1 wherein the band cannot be reused after removal.

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7. A hospital style identification wrist or ankle band according to any previous claim wherein any attempt to remove the band results in its destruction.

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8. A hospital style identification wrist or ankle band where the foam section could be substituted with fabric, plastic or sponge.

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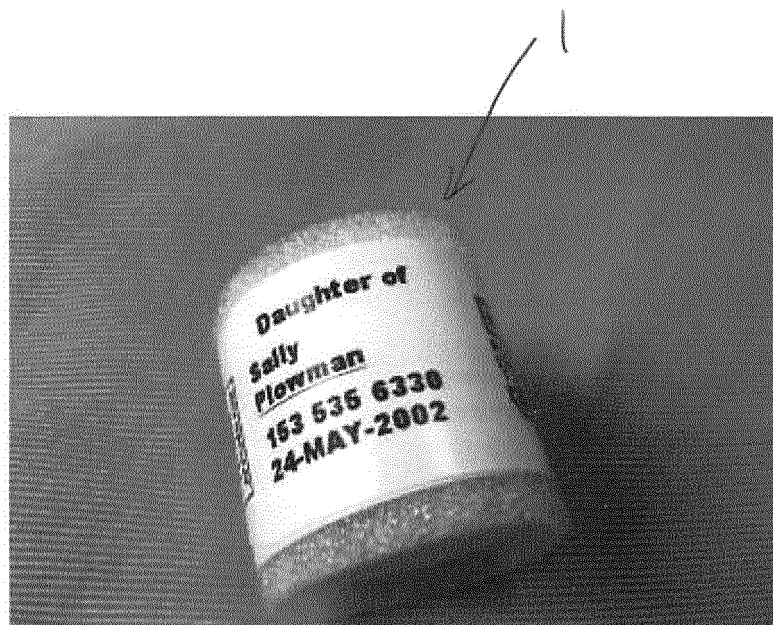
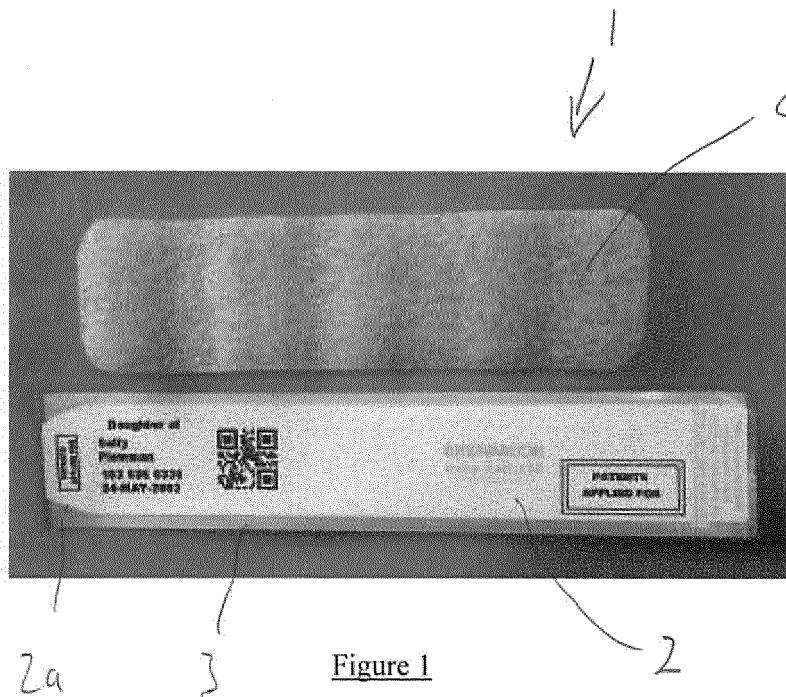
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REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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Patent documents cited in the description

- US 20060218837 A1, J M Riley [0004]