(12) **UK Patent Application** (19)**GB** (11)**2483077** (13)**A8**

(43)Date of A Publication   29.02.2012

(54) Title of the Invention: **Sample testing apparatus and method**
     Abstract Title: **Sample testing assay apparatus and method**

(57) Apparatus for use in performing an assay to detect the presence of an analyte or analytes in a test sample. The apparatus comprises a housing defining a slot (21) for receiving a sample collector, and a capsule (31) containing a buffer liquid, the capsule being sealed by an openable lid, and the capsule being connected to the housing in such relation with said slot that insertion of a sample collector into the slot causes the lid to open releasing the buffer liquid into the slot. The housing further defines an incubation chamber (24) containing or configured to receive a reagent, and an aperture permitting liquid communication between said slot and said incubation chamber. The apparatus comprises one or more test elements, a substantially liquid tight sealing member separating said incubation chamber and said test element(s), and an activation mechanism operable to open said liquid tight sealing member thereby bringing at least a portion of the or each test element into liquid communication with said incubation chamber. The assay is preferably a lateral flow immunoassay.
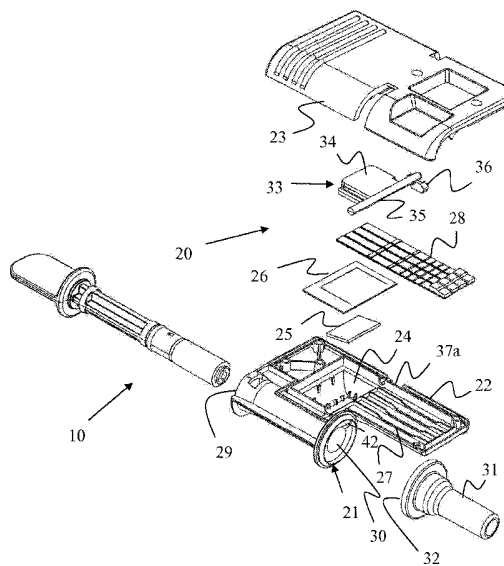
Figure 4

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