

13

comprises the upper jaw frame portion having an inverted U-shaped configuration.

32. The method of claim 27 wherein the step of providing a tube positioning and securing device additionally comprises cheek and mouth frame portions which are hand bendable. 5

33. The method of claim 32 wherein the step of placing the mouth portion in the patient's mouth is preceded by the step of bending the cheek and mouth frame portions such that there is an optimal fit between the device and the patient. 10

34. A medical tube positioning and securing device comprising:

- a) a central frame portion, wherein the central frame portion has an inverted U-shaped upper jaw frame portion and wherein the central frame portion is adapted for inserting a medical tube therethrough; 15
- b) a lower jaw frame portion extending from the central portion;
- c) a first cheek frame portion extending from the central portion; 20
- d) a second cheek frame portion extending from the central portion; and
- e) a mouth portion comprising the upper jaw portion and the lower jaw portion, wherein the mouth portion is adapted for placement in a patient's mouth such that the mouth remains open. 25

35. A method of securely positioning a medical tube in a patient's respiratory passageway comprising the steps of:

- a) providing the medical tube; 30
- b) providing a medical tube positioning and securing device comprising (1) an inverted U-shaped central

14

frame portion having an inverted U-shaped upper jaw frame portion and wherein the inverted U-shaped central frame portion is adapted for inserting the medical tube therethrough, (2) a lower jaw frame portion extending from the inverted U-shaped portion, (3) a first cheek frame portion extending from the inverted U-shaped portion, (4) a second cheek frame portion extending from the inverted U-shaped portion, wherein the second cheek frame portion is disposed opposite the first cheek frame portion and (5) a mouth frame portion including the upper jaw portion and the lower jaw portion;

- c) placing the mouth portion of the medical tube positioning and securing device in a patient's mouth;
- d) providing a fastener for fastening the device to a patient's head;
- e) using the fastener for fastening the device to the patient's head;
- f) inserting the medical tube through the inverted U-shaped portion into the patient's respiratory passageway;
- g) positioning the medical tube in the respiratory passageway such that the position is appropriate for its intended medical purpose;
- h) providing a securing means for securing the medical tube to a frame portion of the device; and
- i) securing the medical tube to a frame portion using the securing means.

\* \* \* \* \*