istic which it modifies but rather possessing more of the physical or functional characteristic than its opposite, and preferably, approaching or approximating such a physical or functional characteristic.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that various adaptations and modifications of the embodiments described above can be configured without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention. Therefore, it is to be understood that, within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced other than as specifically described herein.

We claim:

1. A system for receiving an output from an external source comprising:

a storage configured to store at least one algorithm;

a communications module for receiving vital-sign data from an external source and storing the received vital-sign data in said storage;

an analysis controller in communication with said storage, said analysis controller monitors said storage;

a test module in communication with said analysis controller and said storage, said test module configured to receive at least a portion of the vital-sign data from said storage through said analysis controller and to store any output produced by said test module in said storage, and

said test module includes running means for running said at least one algorithm loaded into said storage where said at least one algorithm processes at least a portion of the vital-sign data provided by said analysis controller; and

a ruggedized, compact housing enclosing said storage, said communications module, said analysis controller, and said test module.

2. The system according to claim **1**, further comprising a connector passing through a wall of said housing and in communication with said communications module.

3. The system according to claim **1**, further comprising a display in communication with said test module for displaying at least part of the output produced by said test module.

4. The system according to claim **1**, wherein said storage includes at least one database.

5. The system according to claim **1**, wherein said storage includes at least one database configured to store the received vital-sign data and at least one database configured to store the output of said test module.

6. A system for receiving vital-sign information from a vital-sign monitor, said system comprising:

a storage having at least one database, said storage configured to store at least one algorithm;

a communications module for receiving vital-sign data from an external source and storing the received vital-sign data in said database of said storage;

an analysis controller in communication with said storage, said analysis controller monitors said storage;

a test module in communication with said analysis controller and said storage, said test module configured to receive at least a portion of the vital-sign data from said storage through said analysis controller, and

said test module includes running means for running said at least one algorithm loaded into said storage where said at least one algorithm processes at least a portion of the vital-sign data provided by said analysis controller, said running means provides an output in substantially real time from receipt of the vital-sign data by said communications module;

a ruggedized, compact housing enclosing said storage, said communications module, said analysis controller, and said test module.

7. The system according to claim **6**, further comprising a connector passing through a wall of said housing and in communication with said communications module.

8. The system according to claim **7**, further comprising a display in communication with said test module for displaying at least part of the output produced by said test module.

9. The system according to claim **8**, wherein said storage includes at least one database configured to store the received vital-sign data and at least one database configured to store the output of said test module.

10. The system according to claim **9**, wherein said test module stores in said storage the output produced by the at least one algorithm.

11. The system according to claim **6**, further comprising a display in communication with said test module for displaying at least part of the output produced by said test module.

12. The system according to claim **6**, wherein said storage includes at least one database configured to store the received vital-sign data and at least one database configured to store the output of said test module.

13. The system according to claim **6**, wherein said test module stores in said storage at least part of the output produced by the at least one algorithm.

14. The system according to claim **13**, wherein said storage includes at least one database configured to store the received vital-sign data and at least one database configured to store the output of said test module.

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