



# United States Patent [19] Cunningham

[11] **Patent Number:** 6,055,507  
[45] **Date of Patent:** \*Apr. 25, 2000

[54] **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DISPENSING, TRACKING AND MANAGING PHARMACEUTICAL TRIAL PRODUCTS**

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5,542,420 8/1996 Goldman et al. .... 128/630  
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[76] Inventor: **David W. Cunningham**, 11929 Eagle Bluff Cir., Raleigh, N.C. 27613

*Primary Examiner*—Frantzy Poinvil  
*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Coats & Bennett, PLLC

[\*] Notice: This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

[21] Appl. No.: **09/137,095**

A new and improved method of dispensing, tracking and managing pharmaceutical product samples by communicatively linking prescribers and pharmacies to a central computing station. The method entails utilizing product trial media that is exchanged for actual pharmaceutical product. The media is encoded with information that identifies a particular pharmaceutical trial product, such as by magnetic encoding similar to that used with credit cards. The media is distributed to participating medical doctors or prescribers who then activate the media via the central computing station. The prescriber then transfers the activated media to patients who then present the media to participating pharmacies. Before filling the pharmaceutical trial product identified by the media, the pharmacy validates the media via a link with the central computing station. Then, the pharmacy dispenses the prescribed pharmaceutical trial product. The central computing station also includes a database that records data related to the use of the media so that all pharmaceutical trial products can be accounted for.

[22] Filed: **Aug. 20, 1998**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

[62] Division of application No. 08/556,466, Nov. 13, 1995, Pat. No. 5,832,449.

[51] **Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup>** ..... **G06F 159/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **705/3; 705/2**

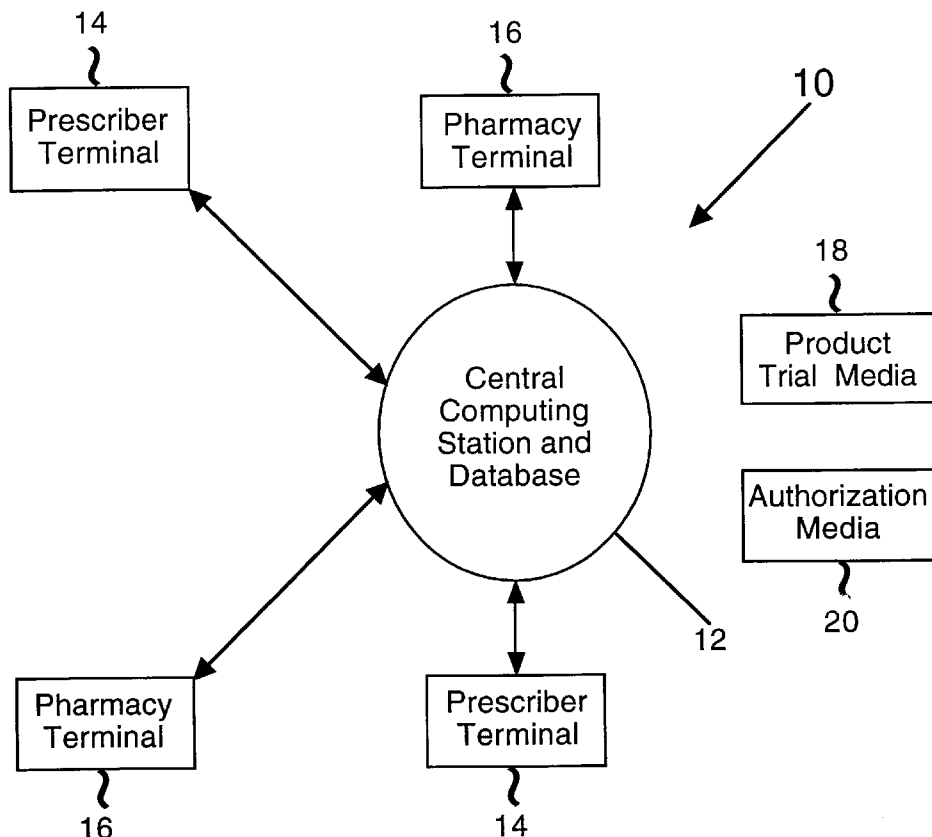
[58] **Field of Search** ..... 705/1, 2, 3, 28; 235/375, 385; 283/55, 67; 340/825.29, 825.34

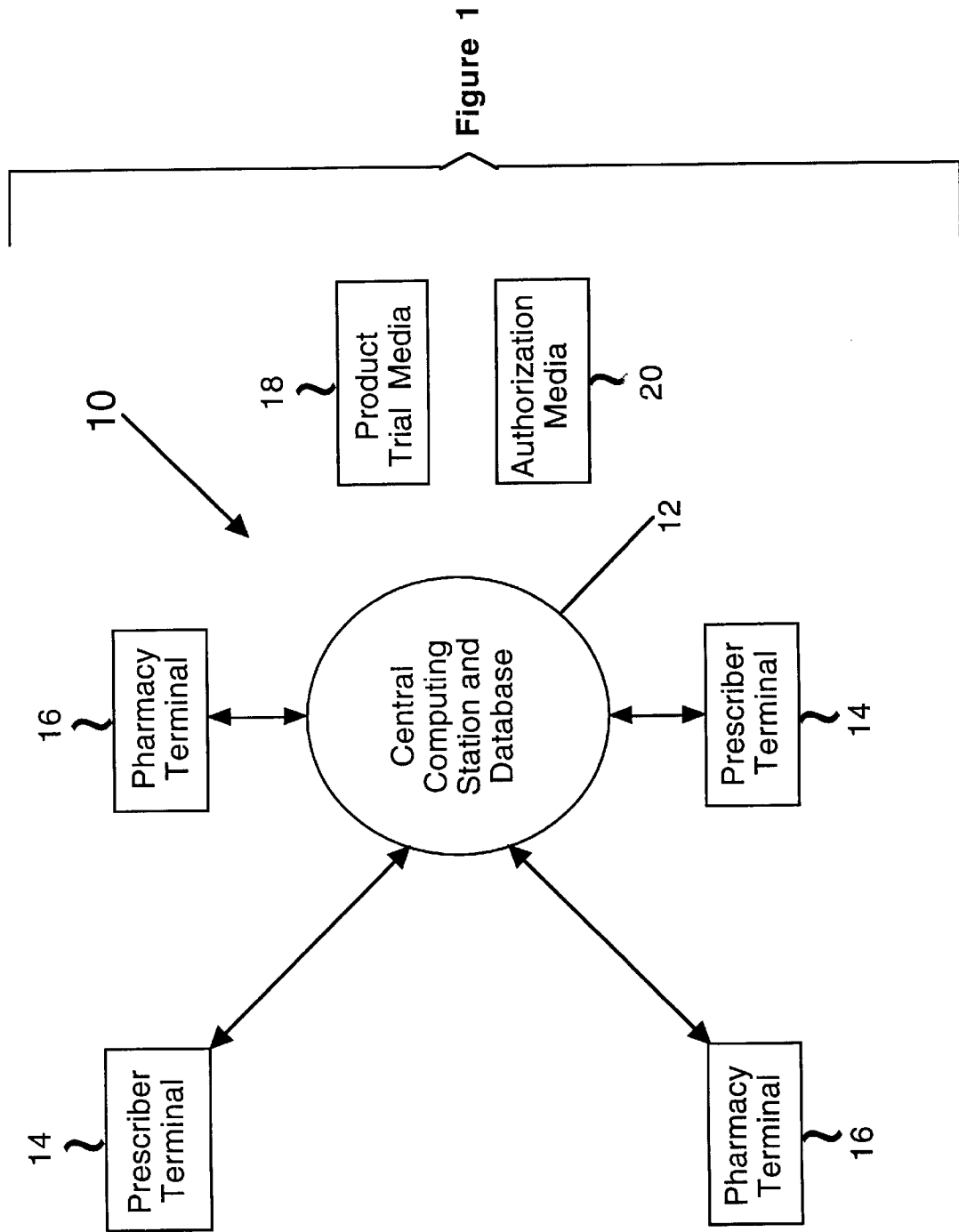
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**2 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets**





18 ↗

Physician Approval Code	
_____	□□□□
Pharmacist Approval Code	
_____	□□□□
Patient Signature	
_____	
Physician Signature	
_____	

Figure 2B

20 ↗

Authorizer Signature	
_____	

Figure 3B

18 ↗

TRIAL PRODUCT TRADE NAME
TRIAL PRODUCT GENERIC NAME
TRIAL PRODUCT FORM & STRENGTH
TRIAL PRODUCT QUANTITY
CARD SERIAL NUMBER
CARD EXPIRATION DATE

Figure 2A

20 ↗

AUTHORIZER ID NUMBER
AUTHORIZER NAME
CARD EXPIRATION DATE

Figure 3A

Figure 2 & 3

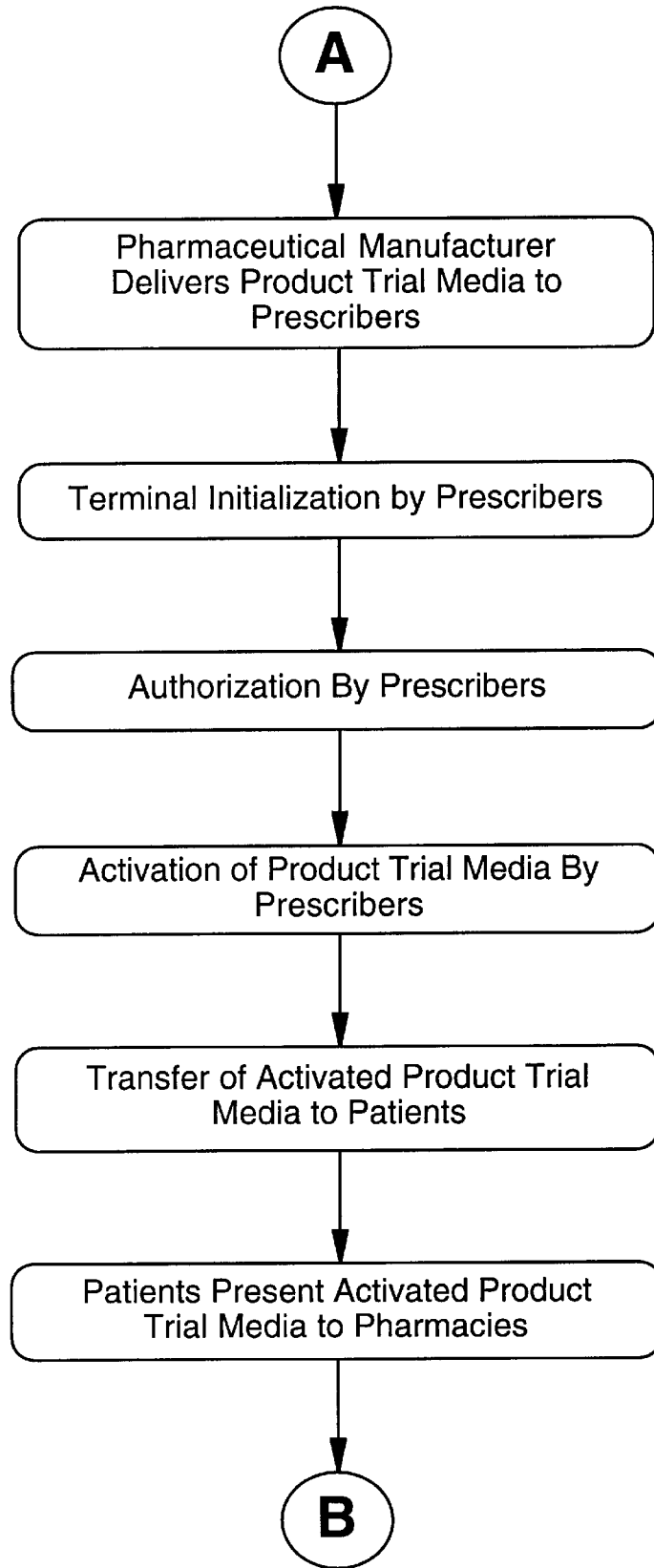


Figure 4A

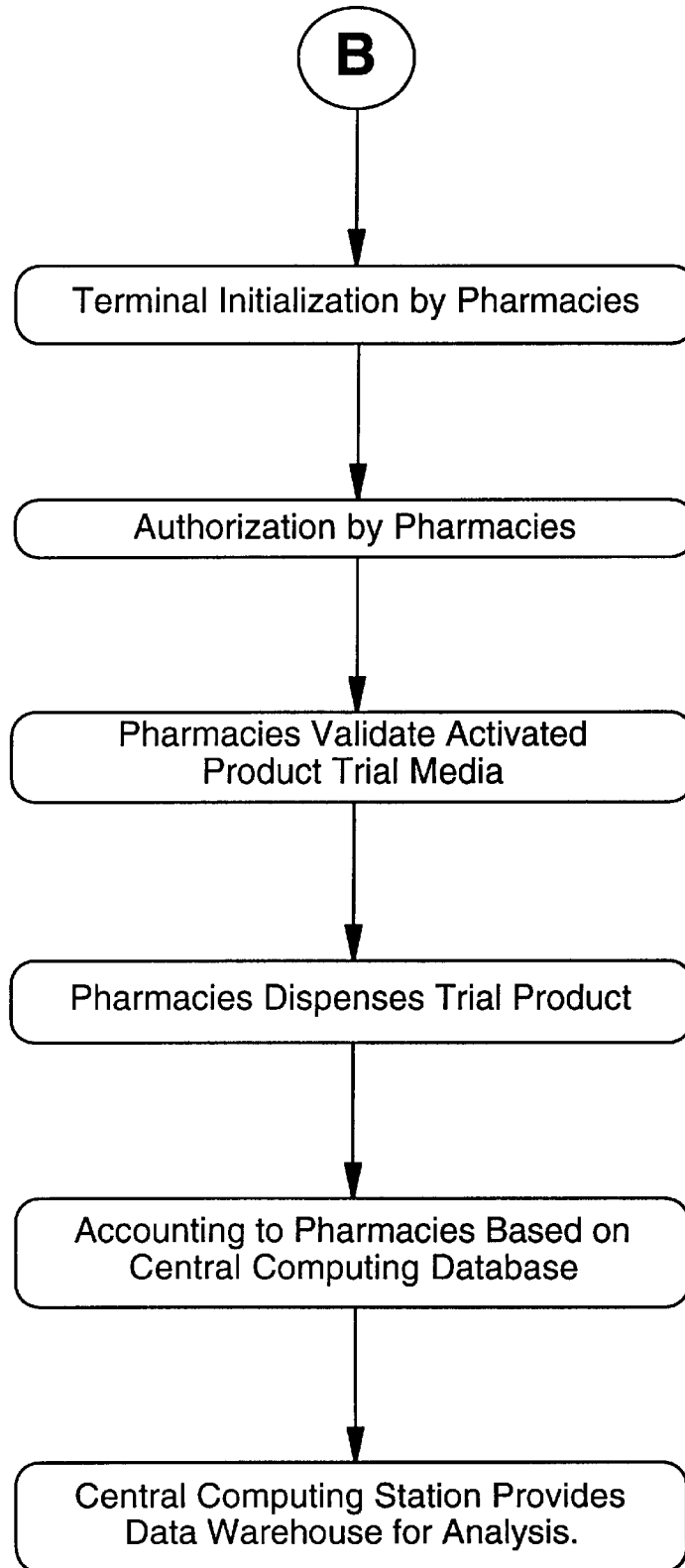


Figure 4B

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