

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
16 August 2007 (16.08.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/092526 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification:
A47C 21/08 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2007/003311
- (22) International Filing Date: 7 February 2007 (07.02.2007)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/771,318 8 February 2006 (08.02.2006) US
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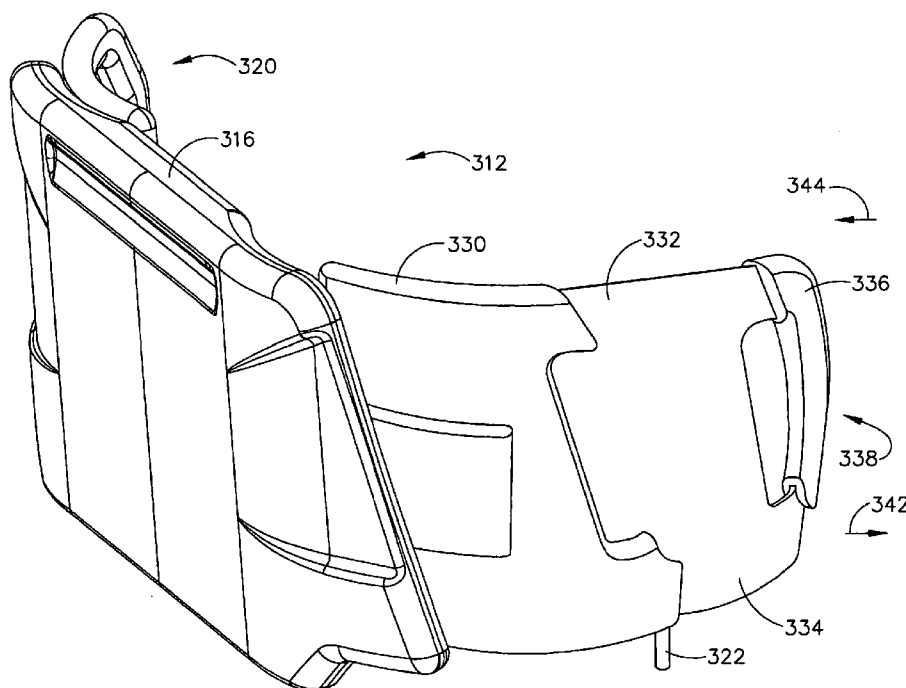
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: END PANEL FOR A PATIENT-SUPPORT APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: An end panel (312) for a patient-support apparatus (310) includes a main portion (316) and one or more movable portions (330, 332). The movable portions (330, 332) are movable to provide a barrier (318) in a gap between a siderail (360) of the patient-support apparatus (310) and the main portion (316) of the end panel (312).

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RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *with international search report*

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the
earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
26 June 2008

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 07/03311

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(8) - A47C 21/08 (2008.01)
USPC - 5/663; 5/425
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC(8) - A47C 21/08 (2008.01)
USPC - 5/663; 5/425

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
USPC - 5/600 - search terms below

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
USPTO - WEST. Google.
search terms - barrier?, bed, boundry, crib, edge?, end, extend\$, extens\$, foot, guide?, gurney, gurney, hospital, ill, invalid, panel, rail?, sick, slot?, support, track?

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2002/0066142 A1 (Osborne et al.) 06 June 2002 (06.06.2002), abstract, fig 1, 5 (21), para [0191]	1-14
Y	US 6,851,142 B2 (Stryker et al.) 08 February 2005 (08.02.2005), fig 9, 11 (items 92-94); col 6 ln 22-32, 39-43, and 58-64	2, 5-14
Y	US 4,409,695 A (Johnston et al.) 18 October 1983 (18.10.1983), fig 1, 2 (130); col 5 ln 61-68	1-5, 7-14
A	US 2003/0093860 A1 (Kramer et al.) 22 May 2003 (22.05.2003), entire document	1-14
A	US 6,496,993 B2 (Allen et al.) 24 December 2002 (24.12.2002), entire document	1-14
A	US 2002/0095724 A1 (Hornbach et al.) 25 July 2002 (25.07.2002), entire document	1-14
A	US 4,139,917 A (Fenwick) 20 February 1979 (20.02.1979), entire document	1-14
A	US 4,030,149 A (Kato) 21 June 1977 (21.06.1977), entire document	1-14
A	US 3,967,334 A (Ricke et al.) 06 July 1976 (06.07.1976), entire document	1-14

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* Special categories of cited documents:
 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
 "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
 "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
 "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
 "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
 "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
 "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
 "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
 "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search 15 January 2008 (15.01.2008)	Date of mailing of the international search report 28 MAR 2008
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201	Authorized officer: Lee W. Young PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 07/03311

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Group 1: claims 1-14
Group 2: claims 15-30
Group 3: claims 31-40

-- see extra sheet for more information --

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
1-14

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 07/03311

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In order for more than one species to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid. The species are as follows:

The embodiments that differentiate the species relate to the configuration of the extender or second portion and its movement relative to the main or first portion. The figures indicated exemplify the embodiments and are not exhaustive of the complete set of figures contained in the application.

Group 1: (sliding panel) Figures 6-9 - second portion (extender) is a generally vertical surface parallel to the generally vertical surface of the main portion the second portion having a guide engaged with the slot to support the extender relative to the main portion for movement relative.

Group 2: (pivoting panel) Figure 3 second portion movable between a first position adjacent the first portion and a second position wherein the second portion is positioned adjacent a patient-support surface and configured to extend vertically above the patient-support surface to form a barrier and includes a detent assembly.

Group 3: (retracting web) Figures 4-5 second portion (extender) coupled to the main portion and configured to be coupled to a siderail of the patient-support apparatus to enclose a gap between the main portion and the siderail, the extender being spring retractable.

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

Group 1: claims 1-14
Group 2: claims 15-30
Group 3: claims 31-40

Claims considered as generic: None

Claims 21-40 were filed 24 May 2007 (24.05.2007), correcting a misnumbering of claims 24 and 25. No new claims were added and claims 21-40 filed 24 May 2007 are identical to claims 21-39 (containing two claims numbered 25) as originally filed. This determination is based on claims 1-20 as originally filed and claims 21-40 as filed 24 May 2007.

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features.