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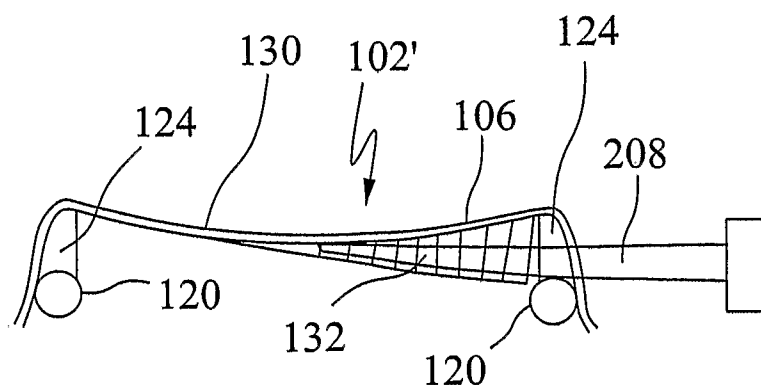
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(54) Title: PATIENT TRANSFER SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A system for transferring medical patients utilizes the concept of creating a "hollow space" between the patient and the surface on which he or she is supported. A patient support material (102) mounted to a rigid frame (100) positioned about a bed or other hospital furniture can have slots (104) or openings extending laterally inward from at least one side of the patient support material (102) and oriented substantially perpendicular to a line running from the head of the bed to the foot of the bed. The slots allow respective tines of a transport device, or straps (106) from a patient transfer chair or device, to be inserted beneath a patient

lying on the patient support material (102) such that the tines or straps (or other elongated patient support/transfer components) can be lifted above through the slots (104) and thus transfer the patient from the patient support material to the tines or straps (106) of the patient transfer/transport device. Associated patient support chairs/devices, lift carts, lifts, carts, and other accessories can be used to lift and transport the patient.

WO 2007/016559 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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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)

A61G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Y	page 1, lines 44-46; figure 1	28-35, 40-42
X	GB 1 186 697 A (MEDIZINTECHNIK LEIPZIG VEB [DE]) 2 April 1970 (1970-04-02)	1,10-13, 22,24, 25,36-39
Y	page 2, lines 18-60; figures 1,2	14-20, 23,26, 27,43-50
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