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(54) **OVERBED TABLE ASSEMBLY**

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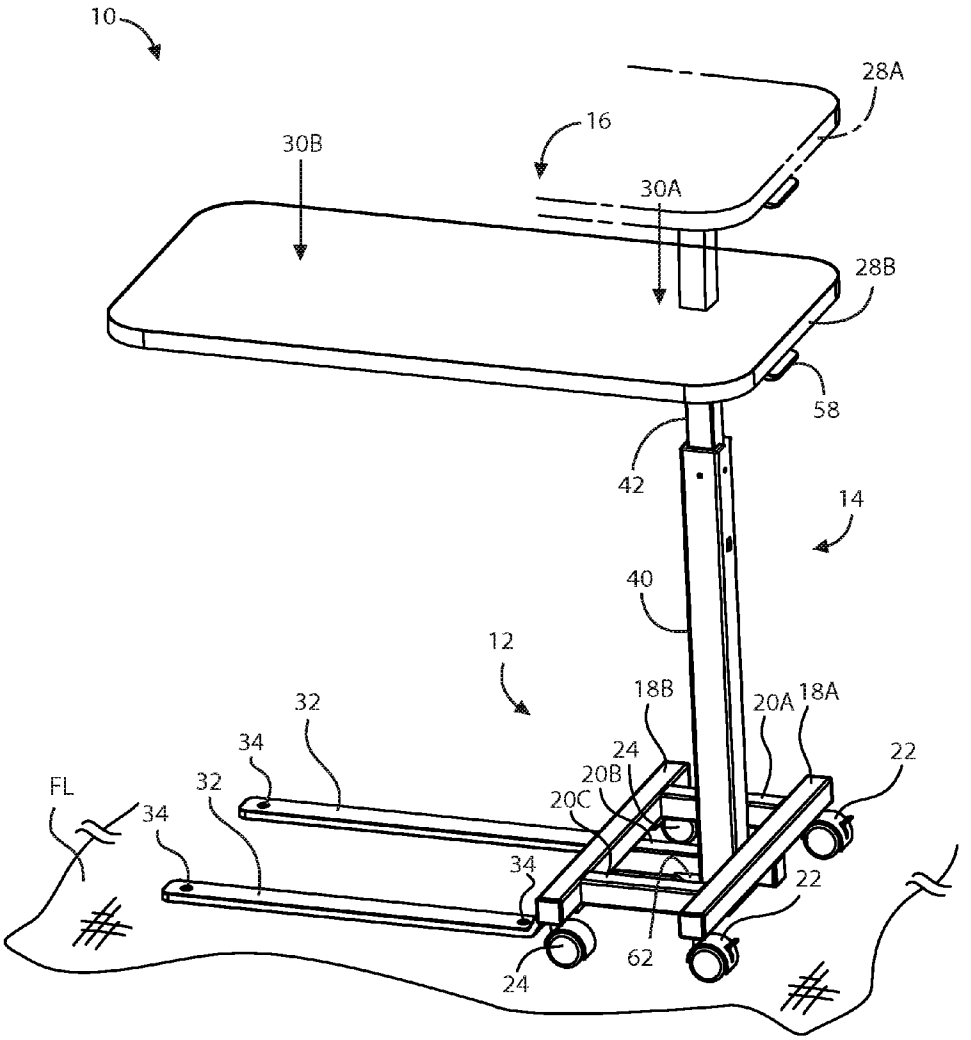
(57) **ABSTRACT**

Overbed table assemblies and table assemblies for use with a patient support surface are presented herein. In one embodiment, the overbed table assembly includes a movable base for supporting the overbed table assembly and a tabletop spaced from the base. A support beam structure interconnects the tabletop and the base. The support beam structure is attached to the base at a point below the upper surface thereof. In other embodiments, one or more elongated glide arms project transversely from the base to abut the ground and thereby provide cantilevered support for the tabletop. Optionally, the glide arm(s) are generally parallel with the ground, and less than approximately one inch high. The base may include an array of wheels, at least three of which are positioned directly under one side of the tabletop. The tabletop may be vertically adjustable, having an adjustable height of approximately 20-40 inches from the ground.



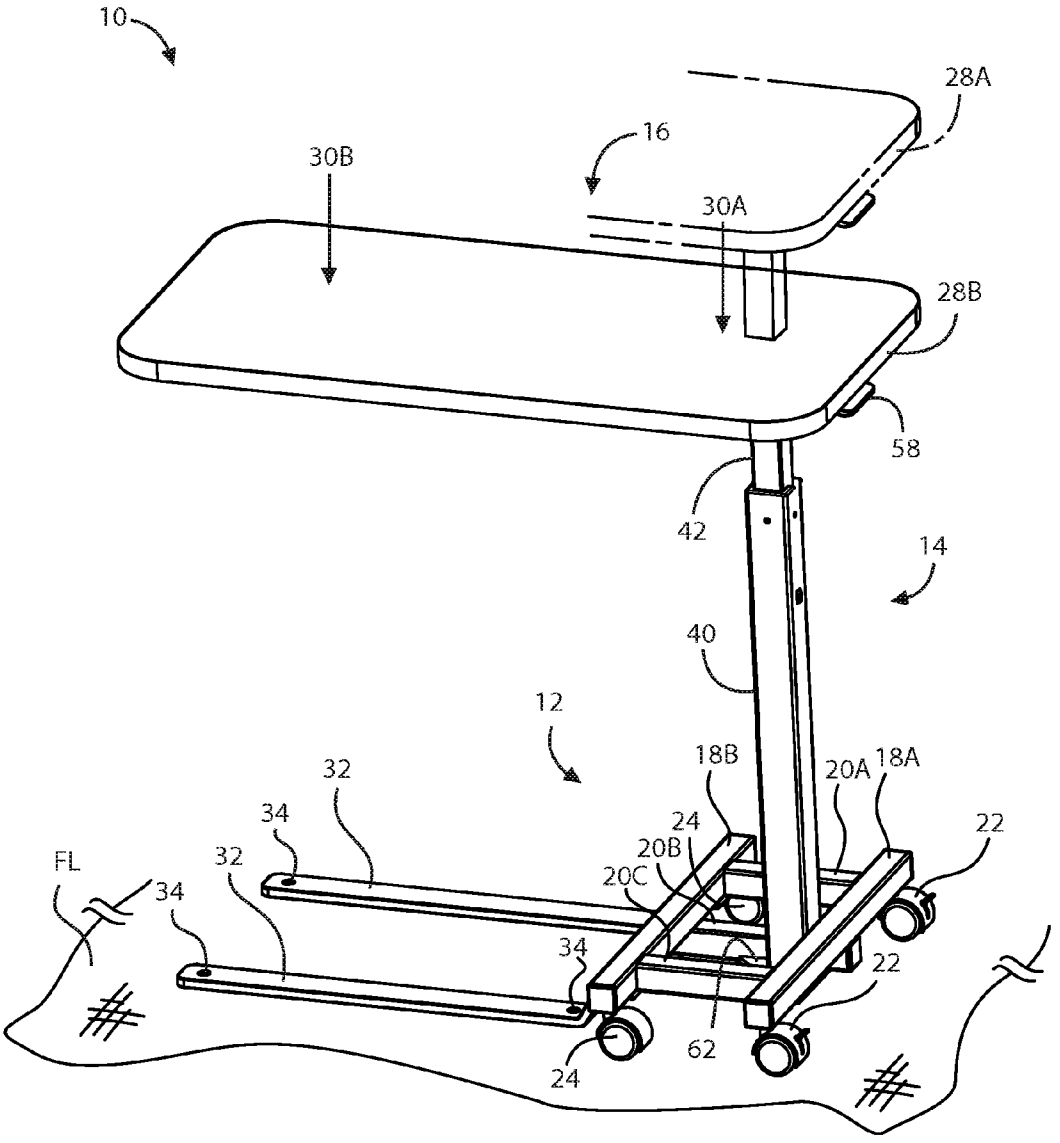

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FIG.1

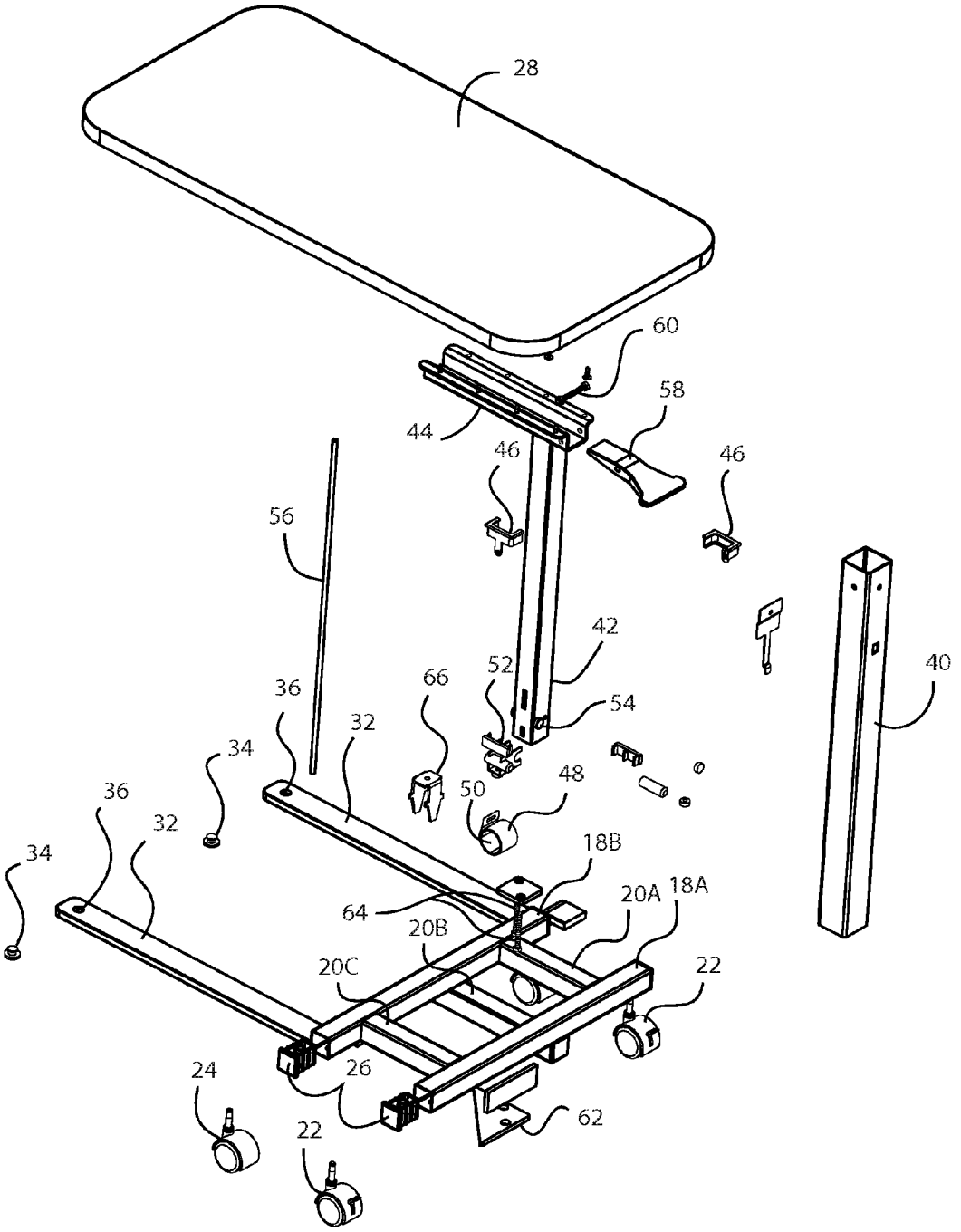
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FIG.2

OVERBED TABLE ASSEMBLY

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates generally to tables, and more particularly to movable table assemblies with a cantilevered tabletop that is designed to extend over a patient support surface.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Many hospitals, medical offices, nursing homes, and other healthcare and non-healthcare facilities provide tables for use by attending physicians, nurses, and other facility personnel as work surfaces, and for patient convenience by providing an available surface. Some such tables, which are typically referred to in the art as "overbed tables," have a tabletop that is designed to extend over a patient support surface, such as a bed, chair, examination table, and the like. In most conventional arrangements, the tabletop is a cantilevered surface that is buttressed on a rectangular base which is supported at each corner by a caster or wheel. The cantilevered tabletop can often be raised and lowered to accommodate different needs, preferences and patient support surfaces of varying heights.

[0003] During common use, the overbed table is wheeled up to the patient bed, chair, etc. The wheeled-base of the overbed table slides underneath the patient support surface such that the horizontal tabletop extends over the patient support surface. The vertical support beam of the overbed table assembly is either pressed against or merely lies adjacent to one side of the patient support surface. The tabletop may then be adjusted to a more convenient height over the support surface. A locking mechanism may be employed to secure the tabletop at the desired height.

[0004] In general, overbed tables are classified as either standard-height tables or low-profile tables. Standard-height overbed tables utilize conventional wheels, and typically provide an adjustable tabletop-height range of 30-45 inches. In contrast, low-profile overbed tables typically provide an adjustable tabletop-height range of 19-28 inches, utilizing small-radius casters which provide a low profile base for rolling under equipment and support surfaces with low underside clearances.

[0005] Recent developments in hospital equipment include vertically-adjustable support surfaces. Adjustable-height bed frames, for example, have an underside clearance of only a few inches when adjusted to their lowest-most heights. The wheeled-base of conventional overbed assemblies will not clear a bed that has a full height of 7 inches from top of deck to floor in the low position. Attempting to slide the wheeled-base of prior art overbed tables underneath these support surfaces will damage the underside support frame and any associated electronics.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] Various advantages of the invention will become apparent upon reading the following detailed description and upon reference to the drawings.

[0007] FIG. **1** is a perspective-view illustration of an overbed table assembly in accordance with one exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

[0008] FIG. **2** is an exploded perspective-view illustration of the overbed table assembly of FIG. **1**.

[0009] While the invention is susceptible to various modifications and alternative forms, specific embodiments are shown by way of example in the drawings and will be described in detail herein. It should be understood, however, that the invention is not intended to be limited to the particular forms disclosed. Rather, the invention is to cover all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives falling within the spirit and scope of the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

[0010] While this invention is susceptible of embodiment in many different forms, there is shown in the drawings and will herein be described in detail representative embodiments of the invention with the understanding that the present disclosure is to be considered as an exemplification of the principles of the invention and is not intended to limit the broad aspect of the invention to the embodiments illustrated. To that extent, elements and limitations that are disclosed, for example, in the Figures, Abstract, and Description of the Illustrative Embodiments, but not explicitly set forth in the claims, should not be incorporated into the claims, singly or collectively, by implication, inference or otherwise.

[0011] The present invention will be described herein in the context of an overbed table assembly for providing a convenient, readily-available surface for vertically-adjustable long-term care beds. However, the present invention is by no means limited to this particular application. By way of example, and not limitation, the concepts of the present invention may just as easily be applicable to other support platforms, such as examination tables and chairs, wheelchairs, sofas, stretchers, hospital beds, nursing home beds, stationary beds, and the like. In addition, the drawings presented herein are not to scale and are provided purely for instructional purposes. As such, absent explicit claim language to the contrary, the individual and relative dimensions and orientations shown in the drawings are not to be considered limiting.

[0012] Referring to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals refer to like components throughout the several views, FIG. **1** is a side perspective-view illustration of an exemplary overbed table assembly, designated generally as **10**, in accordance with various aspects of the present invention. While the arrangement shown in FIG. **1** is referred to as an overbed table, it is not so limited. In fact, the table assembly **10** can also be positioned in front of or next to other support surfaces, such as those enumerated in the previous paragraph. To that end, the overbed table assembly **10** can be employed in both healthcare facilities (e.g., hospitals and doctor offices) and non-healthcare facilities (e.g., nursing homes and long-term care homes) alike without departing from the intended scope and spirit of the present invention.

[0013] The overbed table assembly **10** comprises three primary segments: a base **12**, a support beam structure **14**, and a tabletop **16**. The base **12** is configured to movably support the entire overbed table assembly **10**. For instance, the base **12** may comprise a rigid platform with an array of wheels that allow the overbed table assembly **10** to be easily maneuvered about the floor (designated FL in FIG. **1**) without inadvertently tipping. In the illustrated embodiment, for example, the base **12** includes a plurality of laterally-oriented and longitudinally-oriented crossbeams **18**A-B and **20**A-C, respectively, which are interconnected to form a horizontal support platform. Two locking casters **22** are swivel mounted to the under-side surface of the rearmost laterally-oriented cross-

beam **18**A, whereas two non-locking casters **24** are swivel mounted to the under-side surface of the forward-most laterally-oriented crossbeam **18**B. Optional tube plugs (two of which are illustrated in FIG. **2** at **26**) can be inserted into the open ends of the laterally-oriented crossbeams **18**A-B for aesthetic and/or safety purposes.

[0014] Recognizably, the base **12** may comprise more or fewer than the five crossbeams **18**A, **18**B, **20**A, **20**B, **20**C illustrated in FIG. **1**. It is likewise contemplated that one or more of the crossbeams **18**A-B, **20**A-C can be replaced with alternate structure, such as a rigid plate or box. Moreover, the length, width, and height of each crossbeam **18**A-B, **20**A-C can be modified, individually or collectively, to accommodate the intended application of the overbed table assembly **10**. To that end, the crossbeams **18**A-B, **20**A-C are exemplified in the drawings as elongated, square tubes. Alternatively, the crossbeams **18**A-B, **20**A-C may be fabricated as solid bars, and may take on varying geometries. As another optional configuration, one of the locking casters **22** or the non-locking casters **24** could eliminated, with the remaining caster being centrally oriented along its respective crossbeam **18**A or **18**B.

[0015] In FIGS. **1** and **2**, the tabletop **16** is shown with a generally planar, rectangular body **28** having rounded corners. The tabletop **16** is configured, as described below, to cantilever above a patient support surface, such as a hospital bed or wheel chair. For descriptive purposes, the tabletop body **28** may be split into two generally congruent sections—i.e., a first side **30**A that is in longitudinally opposing relation with a second side **30**B. It should be recognized, however, that the tabletop **16** length, width, and overall geometry may be varied without departing from the intended scope of the present invention. In addition, the tabletop **16** may be provided with various optional features, such as cup holders, cubby holes, electronic devices, etc.

[0016] According to one facet of the present concepts, the overbed table assembly **10** includes one or more glide arms **32** that are oriented so as to abut the floor FL (also referred to herein as "ground") and thereby provide cantilevered support for the tabletop **16**. For example, a pair of generally parallel, elongated glide arms **32** are attached to (e.g., via welding or screws) or integrally formed with (e.g., via thermoplastic molding) the base **12**. The glide arms **32** project transversely outward from a front side of the base **12**, in a substantially horizontal orientation with respect to the tabletop **16** and a substantially perpendicular orientation with respect to the support beam structure **14**. In the illustrated embodiment, each glide arm **32** is attached to the forward-most laterally-oriented crossbeam **18**B, and curves downward therefrom such that substantially all of the glide arm **32** is immediately adjacent to and generally parallel with the floor FL. In some embodiments, the base **12** has an overall maximum height equal to or less than approximately seven inches, whereas the elongated glide arms **32** each have a maximum height over the length thereof of less than approximately one inch and, in some configurations, less than approximately ½ an inch. This arrangement provides an exceptionally low-profile base that can fit under adjustable "hi-low" beds and other patient support structures with minimal underside clearances without damaging the underside thereof.

[0017] The casters **22**, **24** are shown positioned at the corners of the interconnected crossbeams **18**A-B, **20**A-C to provide sufficient lateral stability for wheeling the overbed table assembly **10** to different locations. The casters **22**, **24** also cooperate with the glide arms **32** to provide sufficient cantilever support for the tabletop **16** if vertically loaded. For instance, in the exemplary embodiment of FIG. **1**, all of the casters **22**, **24** are positioned directly under the first longitudinal side **30**A of the tabletop **16**. This arrangement provides sufficient subjacent support for the tabletop **16** when there is no load exacted thereon. However, if a load is applied which creates a sufficient moment arm on the tabletop **16** such that the overbed table assembly **10** pitches forward (e.g., counter-clockwise with respect to FIG. **1**), the glide arms **32** will press into the floor FL and create a counteracting force to offset the moment arm. In a similar regard, if a load is applied which creates a sufficient moment arm on the tabletop **16** such that the overbed table assembly **10** pitches rearward (e.g., clockwise with respect to FIG. **1**), the glide arms **32** will press upwards into the underside surface of the hospital bed to create a counteracting force to offset the moment arm.

[0018] In some preferred embodiments, one or more rounded protrusions **34** project downwardly from an underside surface of each elongated glide arm **32**. As seen in FIG. **2**, for example, each protrusion **24** has a rounded head with a flanged shank. The flanged shank is pressed into a corresponding receiving hole **36** (FIG. **2**), thereby attaching the protrusion **34** to a respective glide arm **32**. Alternative means, such as, but not limited to, adhesives or helical threading, can be utilized to attach the rounded protrusions **34** to the glide arms **32**. The rounded protrusions **34** lie between the elongated glide arms **32** and the floor FL. The contoured shape and/or the material of the protrusions **34** reduce sliding friction between the elongated glide arms **32** and the floor FL. The protrusions **34** also help prevent accidental scratching of the floor FL. The glide arm **32** is shown in FIG. **1** with two rounded protrusions **34**; however, more or less than two can be utilized without departing from the intended scope of the present invention.

[0019] With continuing reference to FIG. **1**, the support beam structure **14** operatively connects the tabletop **16** to the base **12**. The support beam structure **14** illustrated in FIGS. **1** and **2**, for example, is composed of a generally hollow outer column **40** that is coupled directly to the base **12** and an inner column **42** that is coupled directly to the tabletop **16**. Alternatively, the outer column **40** can be coupled to the tabletop **16** while the inner column **42** is coupled to the base **12**. The outer column **40** and inner column **42** are exemplified in the drawings as elongated, vertically-oriented square tubes. It should be recognized, however, that the inner column **42** may be fabricated as a solid bar, whereas the shape, orientation, and dimensions of the inner and outer columns **40**, **42** can be selectively varied. Likewise, other structural arrangements can be used to attach the base **12** to the tabletop **16**. For example, a twist-and-pull or slide-rail stanchion arrangement can be utilized instead of the telescoping arrangement shown in the drawings.

[0020] In accordance with another optional facet, the tabletop **16** may be raised and lowered to allow the user to selectively adjust the height of the overbed table assembly **10**. According to the exemplary arrangement shown in the drawings, the outer column **40** is secured to and extends upwardly from one end of the base **12**. The upper end of the outer column **40** is open, as seen in FIG. **2**. The inner column **42** is secured (e.g., via the U-shaped bracket **44** illustrated in FIG. **2**), to the underside of the horizontal table top **16** adjacent one end thereof. The inner column **42** is received inside the outer column **40** such that the inner column **42** can telescope in and out of the outer column **40**. The cross-sectional area of the

outer column **40** is slightly larger than the cross-sectional area of the inner column **42** so that the inner column **42** can slide vertically relative to the outer column **40** with ease, and can maintain the tabletop **16** in a generally horizontal position throughout its range of movement. In so doing, the tabletop **16** is selectively movable between a raised position (shown with hidden lines at **28**A in FIG. **1**) and a lowered position (indicated at **28**B in FIG. **1**). A pair of optional column guides **46** can be hooked to the inner wall of the outer column **42**, providing a guide surface upon which the inner column **42** slides when telescoping with respect to the outer column **40**.

[0021] A constant force spring **48** is mounted inside the lower end of the outer column **40** in the exemplary embodiment illustrated in FIG. **2**. The constant force spring **48** is composed of a coil of flexible yet resilient metal ribbon which is wound on a shaft **50** that is mounted to the outer column **40**. The external end of the spring **48** is secured to an outside surface of the inner column **42** while the internal end of the spring **48** may be secured to the shaft **50** or merely freely wound thereon. As the external end of the spring **48** is drawn away from the shaft **50**, the spring **48** straightens out with a portion thereof remaining wound on the shaft **50**. The straightening action produces a spring force that tends to pull the external end of the spring **48** back into the coil. Regardless of the length of the straight portion of the spring **48**, the portion on the shaft **50** remains substantially the same length. Thus, the spring force acting to pull the inner column **42** upward remains the same. As a result, the portion of the spring **48** mounted on the shaft **50** constitutes a constant force spring which applies a constant force tending to pull the inner column **42** and, thus, the entire tabletop **16** upwardly. Other devices for biasing the tabletop **16** in a preferred direction are also envisioned. Such arrangements may include, for example, pneumatic devices, mechanized arms, motorized assemblies, etc.

[0022] The overbed table assembly **10** may also be provided with a releasable locking device that is associated between the inner and outer columns **40**, **42**. The locking device of FIG. **2**, for example, is composed of a latch plate **52** that is pivotally secured for movement about a pair of circular hinge mounts **54**, which project outward from opposite sides of the inner column **42**. As a result, the latch plate **52** is vertically movable with the inner column **42**. A spring may be provided so that the latch plate **52** is urged upwardly (i.e., in a counterclockwise direction with respect to FIG. **2**) about the axis of the circular hinge mounts **54**. A vertical rod **56** extends down through the hollow center of the inner column **42**, a lower end of which is received by the latch plate **52**. The spring which acts on the latch plate **52** tends to bias the latch plate **52** into engagement with, and to thereby support, the vertical rod **56**. The opposite end of the vertical rod **56** extends through an opening in the upper end of the inner column **42**. In this particular embodiment, a guide plate **66** is secured to the inner column **42**. The guide plate **66** has an opening through which the rod **56** is received and, as a result, the vertical rod **56** is maintained in a vertically aligned and centered orientation within the inner column **42**. There are alternative means by which the tabletop **16** can be locked at a preferred height (e.g., a pin-and-slot arrangement).

[0023] Continuing with the above exemplary locking device, a release lever **58** is pivotally secured to the tabletop **16**—namely, U-shaped bracket **44**, by a pivot pin **60**. The release lever **58** has a handle portion on an external side of the pivot pin **60** and an engagement portion on the opposite side of the pivot pin **60**. The engagement portion of the release lever **58** lays on top of or otherwise engages the upper end of the vertical rod **36**. By pressing or pulling up on the underside of the handle portion, the release lever **58** is pivoted (e.g., counterclockwise in FIG. **1**) about the axis of the pivot pin **60**, pushing downwardly on the vertical rod **56**.

[0024] In use, the tabletop **16** may be moved vertically throughout its range by simply lifting on the tabletop body **28**. When the desired elevation is achieved, the latch plate **52** will prevent downward movement of the tabletop **16** by the wedging of the latch plate **52** between the inner and outer columns **40**, **42**. When it is desired to lower the tabletop **16**, the release lever **58** is actuated (i.e., pivoted upwardly about the axis of the pivot pin **60**) so that the engagement portion presses down on the upper end of the vertical rod **56**. This action will also serve to disengage the latch plate **52** from engagement with the outer column **40**. Thereafter, the tabletop **16** can be lowered to the desired height. Upon release of the lever **58**, the latch plate **52** will be biased into engagement with the inner wall of the outer column **40** so that continued downward movement of the tabletop **16** is prevented.

[0025] According to one embodiment, the tabletop **16** is vertically adjustable, having an adjustable height of approximately 20-40 inches from the ground. In another embodiment, the tabletop **16** has an adjustable height of approximately 23-39 inches from the ground. In yet another embodiment, the adjustable height of the tabletop **16** is approximately 23.5-38 inches. Other ranges of motion are also envisioned as being within the scope of the present invention.

[0026] To provide the overbed table assembly **10** with a tabletop **16** having a substantial range of motion and a significantly low minimum height, while maintaining the ultra-low base profile, the lower end of the support beam structure **14** is attached to the base **12** at a point below the upper surface thereof. Purely by way of clarification, the upper surface of the base **12** may be delineated, for example, by the plane defined by the upper surfaces of the interconnected crossbeams **18**A-B, **20**A-C, whereas the lower surface of the base **12** may be characterized by the plane defined by the lower surfaces of the interconnected crossbeams **18**A-B, **20**A-C. In the illustrated embodiment, a mounting plate **62** is welded or otherwise attached to the under-side surface of the rearmost laterally-oriented crossbeam **18**A to provide an ultra-low platform for the column **40** to mount. The outer column **40** is then fastened to the mounting plate **62**—e.g., via threaded screws **64** of FIG. **2**. When attached, the lower longitudinal tip of the outer column **40** is generally coplanar with the lower surface of the base **12**.

Exemplary Alternate Embodiments

[0027] The following exemplary embodiments of the invention are not intended to represent each embodiment, or every aspect, of the present invention. The above features and advantages, and other features and advantages of the present invention, will become more readily apparent from the following examples.

[0028] According to one embodiment of the present invention, an overbed table assembly is provided. In this embodiment, the overbed table assembly includes a base configured to movably support the overbed table assembly, and a tabletop spaced apart from the base. A support beam structure is operatively connected at a first end thereof to the tabletop and at a

second end thereof to the base. The second end of the support beam structure is attached to the base at a point below the upper surface thereof.

[0029] In accordance with one optional facet of the present invention, a longitudinal tip of the support beam structure is generally coplanar with the lower surface of the base. In a similar respect, the second end of the support beam structure may be attached to the lower surface of the base.

[0030] In accordance with another optional facet, the base comprises a plurality of interconnected crossbeams. In this instance, a mounting plate attaches the second end of the support beam structure to an underside of at least one of the crossbeams.

[0031] As part of another optional facet of the present invention, the base comprises one or more elongated glide arms that projecting transversely from the base to abut the ground and thereby provide cantilevered support for the tabletop. Each elongated glide arm may be generally parallel with the ground, having a height of less than approximately one inch and, in some configurations, less than approximately ½ an inch over a longitudinal length thereof. Optionally, each elongated glide arm may be fabricated with one or more rounded protrusions that project from an underside surface thereof. The rounded protrusions are generally located between the glide arm and the ground. Each rounded protrusion is configured to reduce sliding friction between the elongated glide arm and the ground.

[0032] According to yet another aspect, the base comprises at least three wheels positioned directly under one longitudinal side of the tabletop. In one optional arrangement, the wheels are casters swivel mounted to the lower surface of the base.

[0033] As part of yet another aspect of the present invention, the support beam structure includes a generally hollow outer column coupled directly to the base (or the tabletop), and an inner column coupled directly to the tabletop (or the base). The inner column is telescopically mounted within the outer column such that the tabletop is selectively movable between a raised position and a lowered position. In one optional arrangement, a constant force spring is attached at a first end to the outer column and at a second end to the inner column. The constant force spring biases the tabletop toward the raised position.

[0034] In accordance with another optional facet, the tabletop is vertically adjustable, with an adjustable height of approximately 20-40 inches from the ground.

[0035] According to another embodiment of the present invention, a table assembly is presented. The table assembly of this embodiment includes a tabletop that is configured to cantilever above a patient support surface. The table assembly also includes a base with at least three wheels, all of which are positioned directly under one side of the tabletop. A support beam structure operatively connects the tabletop to the base. One or more elongated glide arms project transversely from the base to abut the ground and thereby provide cantilevered support for the tabletop.

[0036] According to one optional facet, the elongated glide arms are generally parallel with the ground, each having a height of less than approximately one inch, and preferably less than approximately ½ an inch above the ground.

[0037] According to an additional optional facet, the elongated glide arms include at least one rounded protrusion that projects downwardly therefrom, lying between the glide arm and the ground. Each rounded protrusion is configured to reduce sliding friction between the elongated glide arm and the ground.

[0038] According to another optional facet, the base has upper and lower surfaces, wherein the support beam structure is attached to the base at a point below the upper surface thereof.

[0039] According to yet another optional facet, a longitudinal tip of the support beam structure is generally coplanar with the lower surface of the base.

[0040] According to even yet another optional facet, the base comprises a plurality of interconnected crossbeams, a mounting plate attaching one end of the support beam structure to an underside of at least one of the plurality of crossbeams.

[0041] In accordance with yet another embodiment of the invention, an overbed table assembly is featured. In this embodiment, the overbed table assembly includes a tabletop with a generally planar body having first and second generally congruent sides. The tabletop is configured to cantilever above a patient support surface, such as a bed, chair, couch, and the like. The overbed table assembly also includes a base with at least three wheels that are positioned directly under the first side of the tabletop. A support beam structure is operatively connected at a first end thereof to the tabletop and at a second end thereof to the base. The second end of the support beam structure is attached to the base at a point below the upper surface thereof. At least one elongated glide arm projects transversely outward from the base to abut the ground and thereby provide cantilevered support for the tabletop.

[0042] While the best modes for carrying out the present invention have been described in detail, those familiar with the art to which this invention relates will recognize various alternative designs and embodiments for practicing the invention within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An overbed table assembly comprising:

a base configured to movably support the overbed table assembly, the base having an upper surface and a lower surface;

a tabletop spaced from the base; and

a support beam structure operatively connected at a first end thereof to the tabletop and at a second end thereof to the base, wherein the second end of the support beam structure is attached to the base at a point below the upper surface of the base.

2. The overbed table assembly of claim **1**, wherein a longitudinal tip of the support beam structure is generally coplanar with the lower surface of the base.

3. The overbed table assembly of claim **1**, wherein the second end of the support beam structure is attached to the lower surface of the base.

4. The overbed table assembly of claim **1**, wherein the base comprises a plurality of interconnected crossbeams, a mounting plate attaching the second end of the support beam structure to an underside of at least one of the plurality of crossbeams.

5. The overbed table assembly of claim **1**, wherein the base comprises at least one glide arm projecting transversely from the base to abut the ground and thereby provide cantilevered support for the tabletop.

6. The overbed table assembly of claim **5**, wherein the at least one glide arm is generally parallel with the ground, the at least one glide arm having a height of less than approximately one inch.

7. The overbed table assembly of claim **5**, wherein the at least one elongated glide arm includes at least one rounded protrusion projecting from an underside surface thereof.

8. The overbed table assembly of claim **7**, wherein the at least one rounded protrusion lies between the at least one elongated glide arm and the ground and is configured to reduce sliding friction between the at least one elongated glide arm and the ground.

9. The overbed table assembly of claim **1**, wherein the base comprises at least three wheels positioned directly under one longitudinal side of the tabletop.

10. The overbed table assembly of claim **9**, wherein the at least three wheels are casters swivel mounted to the lower surface of the base.

11. The overbed table assembly of claim **1**, wherein the support beam structure includes a generally hollow outer column coupled to one of the tabletop and the base, and an inner column coupled to the other of the tabletop and base, the inner column being telescopically mounted within the outer column such that the tabletop is selectively movable between a raised position and a lowered position.

12. The overbed table assembly of claim **11**, wherein the support beam structure includes a constant force spring attached at a first end to the outer column and at a second end to the inner column, the constant force spring biasing the tabletop toward the raised position.

13. The bed assembly of claim **1**, wherein the tabletop is vertically adjustable, the tabletop having an adjustable height of approximately 20-40 inches from the ground.

14. A table assembly comprising:

a tabletop having first and second opposing sides, the tabletop being configured to cantilever above a patient support surface;

a base with at least three wheels positioned directly under the first side of the tabletop;

a support beam structure connecting the tabletop to the base; and

at least one elongated glide arm projecting transversely from the base to abut the ground and thereby provide cantilevered support for the tabletop.

15. The table assembly of claim **14**, wherein the at least one elongated glide arm is generally parallel with the ground, the at least one elongated glide arm having a height of approximately ½ an inch over a longitudinal length thereof.

16. The table assembly of claim **14**, wherein the at least one elongated glide arm includes at least one rounded protrusion projecting downwardly therefrom between the at least one elongated glide arm and the ground, the at least one rounded protrusion being configured to reduce sliding friction between the at least one elongated glide arm and the ground.

17. The table assembly of claim **14**, wherein the base has an upper surface and a lower surface, the support beam structure being attached to the base at a point below the upper surface of the base.

18. The table assembly of claim **14**, wherein a longitudinal tip of the support beam structure is generally coplanar with the lower surface of the base.

19. The table assembly of claim **14**, wherein the base comprises a plurality of interconnected crossbeams, a mounting plate attaching one end of the support beam structure to an underside of at least one of the plurality of crossbeams.

20. An overbed table assembly comprising:

a tabletop with a generally planar body having first and second generally congruent sides, the tabletop being configured to cantilever above a patient support surface;

a base with at least three wheels positioned directly under the first side of the tabletop, the base having an upper surface and a lower surface;

a support beam structure operatively connected at a first end thereof to the tabletop and at a second end thereof to the base, wherein the second end of the support beam structure is attached to the base at a point below the upper surface thereof; and

at least one elongated glide arm projecting transversely outward from the base to abut the ground and thereby provide cantilevered support for the tabletop.

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