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(54) **HOSPITAL BED AND PATIENT SUPPORT EASY TO CLEAN AND MAINTAIN**

(57) Elongated patient support (90) configured for a hospital bed (10) and extending in a longitudinal direction (20) and a transverse direction (30) perpendicular to the longitudinal direction (20), the patient support (90) comprising:

- a bed face (96) formed by multiple bed side sheets (165) coupled to the patient side sheet (160) and each bed side sheet (165) separated by a gap (97) extending in the transverse direction (30), the bed side sheets (165) being welded to the patient side sheet (160), wherein each bed side sheets (165) being welded to the patient side sheet (160) is configured as a patient support section (91) pivotally coupled to an adjacent patient support section (91).

- an exterior patient support face (95) formed by a single patient side sheet (160) extending in the longitudinal direction (20) and the transverse direction (30) and oppositely;

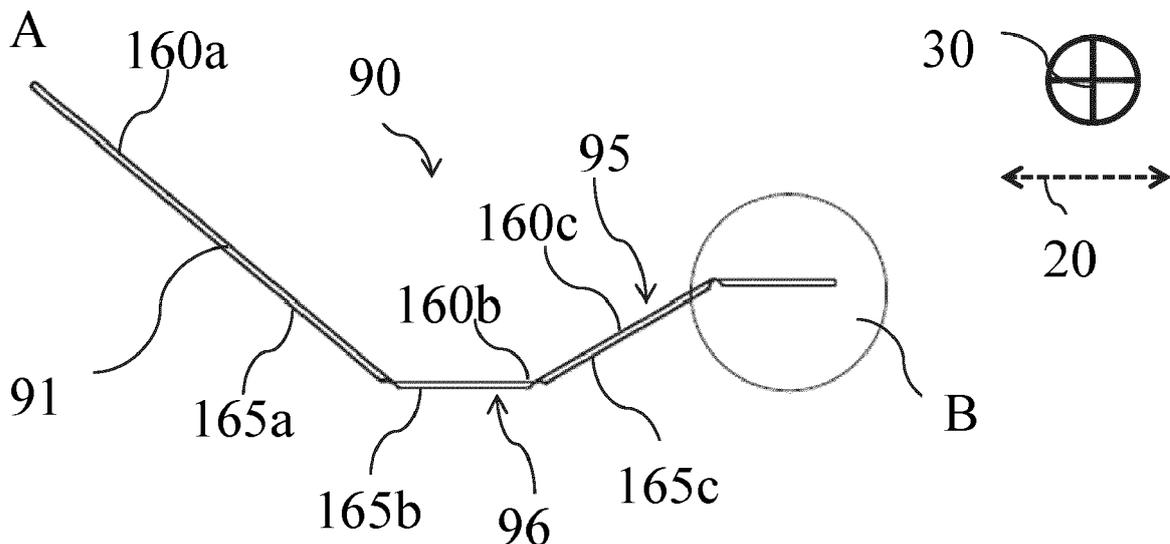


Fig. 16

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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X	US 2014/130264 A1 (MISAKI AKITSUGU [JP] ET AL) 15 May 2014 (2014-05-15) * paragraph [0086]; figures 1-11 *	1-3, 5-7 4	
A	US 2013/212807 A1 (MANSON WAYNE SMEATON [NZ] ET AL) 22 August 2013 (2013-08-22) * figures 1-18, 27-29, 33-46, 56-74 *	1-7	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A61G A47C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 25 September 2023	Examiner Gkama, Alexandra
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

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Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

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No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

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see sheet B

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All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

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As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

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Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

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None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

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The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

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1. claims: 1-7

Patient support comprising patient side and bed side sheets welded to each other.

STF (claim 1): The patient side and bed side sheets are welded to each other.

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TE: The patient support forms a seamless construction.

TP: How to make a patient support that is safe and easy to clean.

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2. claims: 8, 9

Process for moulding a patient side sheet and two bed side sheets

STF (claim 8): The moulds are brought together under high pressure.

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TE: The two sheets are welded together.

TP: How to create a strong and tight construction for a patient support.

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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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5 This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

25-09-2023

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