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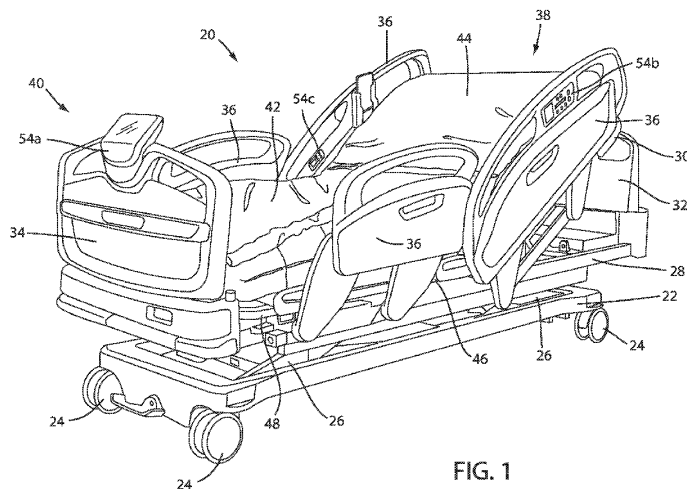


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A patient support apparatus for supporting a patient is adapted to wirelessly communicate with one or more wall units. A controller onboard the patient support apparatus and/or a controller onboard the wall unit is adapted to use RF signals to determine a distance between the wall unit and the patient support apparatus. In some embodiments, the wall unit and/or patient support apparatus include an orientation sensor adapted to determine the geographic orientation of the wall unit and/or patient support apparatus. The patient support apparatus controller may use the geographic orientation information to determine if the wall unit is facing toward the patient support apparatus or not. The patient support apparatus may communicate with multiple wall units concurrently, and/or the wall unit may communicate with multiple patient support apparatuses concurrently.

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WO 2023/043873 A1

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