



(51) International Patent Classification:

A61B 5/00 (2006.01) A61G 7/015 (2006.01)  
A61B 5/11 (2006.01) H04L 43/10 (2022.01)  
A61G 7/012 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2023/024644

(22) International Filing Date:

07 June 2023 (07.06.2023)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

63/352,061 14 June 2022 (14.06.2022) US

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(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ,

(54) Title: COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR PATIENT SUPPORT APPARATUSES

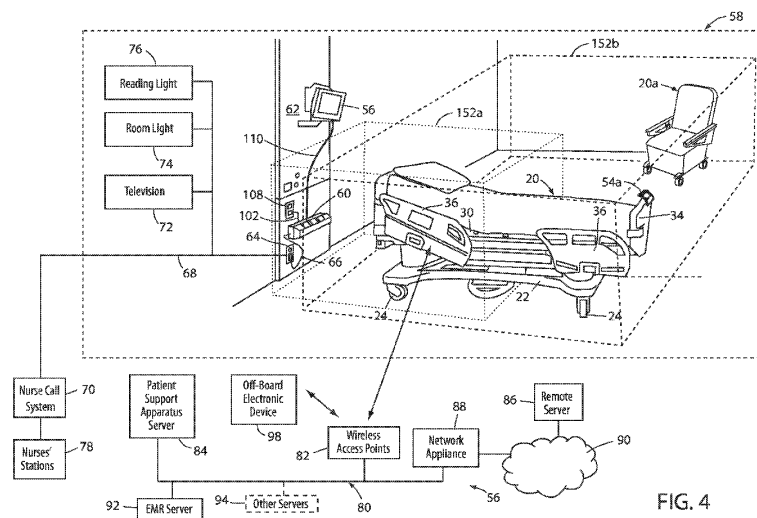


FIG. 4

(57) Abstract: A patient support apparatus includes a plurality of ultra-wideband transceivers, a display, a controller, and a near field transceiver. The controller is adapted to automatically associate an object with the patient support apparatus when the object is positioned within communication range of the near field transceiver; to use radio frequency (RF) communication between the plurality of ultra-wideband transceivers and the object to determine a position of the object relative to the patient support apparatus; to determine if the object is positioned inside or outside of a volume of space; to automatically disassociate the object from the patient support apparatus if the object is outside the volume of space; to forward and/or display data from the object if it is associated; and to not forward and/or display data if it is disassociated. The object may be a nurse call device, an exit detection sensor, a second patient support apparatus, etc.

CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CV, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IQ, IR, IS, IT, JM, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MU, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.

**(84) Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, CV, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SC, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, ME, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))