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(54) Title: COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR PATIENT SUPPORT APPARATUSES

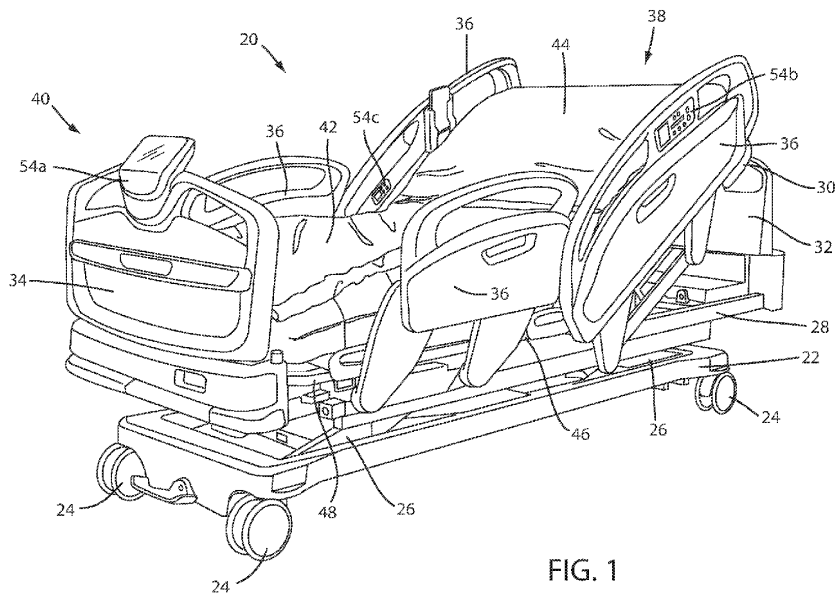


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract:** A patient support apparatus for supporting a patient includes first, second, and third transceivers mounted at first, second, and third locations, respectively. A controller is adapted to use radio frequency communication between the first, second, and third transceivers and a first device—such as a display device, a fixed locator, and/or a vital sign sensor—to determine a position of the first device relative to the patient support apparatus. The controller is further adapted to send data to a display device if the first device is positioned inside a predetermined volume of space, and to not send the data to the display device if the first device is positioned outside of the predetermined volume of space. The patient support apparatus may also selectively accept and communicate with a removable cartridge that includes a vital sign port adapted to receive a plug of a cable from a vital sign sensor.

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