Independent Transfer for Patients with Compromised Lower Limb Functionality: Rolling Slide Board

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Technology description

Background

The slide board is a medical device used for transferring patients, with limited mobility, from one place to another. These slide boards are most prevalent in hospitals, nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. Although there is a wide variety of sliding boards for transporting patients there are flaws associated with the currently available transfer board designs. For example, transfer boards may cause skin abrasions, pinched fingers, patient fatigue, and a lack of stability or balance during patient transfer that is hazardous for patients. The most critical issue with current transfer boards; however, is the lack of independence and self-reliance when it comes to utilizing the traditional slide boards. Patients are typically transferred with the assistance of a caregiver. At certain times when there is a shortage in staff members, patients have to wait to be transferred. Previous designs on the market have tried to address this issue, but have failed to do so because efforts have been focused on otherwise specified issues. There is a present need for a solution capable of enabling patients with limited mobility to transfer themselves independently from one place to another.

Technology Description

Researchers at the University of New Mexico have developed a novel device that aims to facilitate the safe and effective lateral transfer of patients with mobility disabilities, specifically those with limited or impaired lower-body function. With this device, patients are able to easily slide across a surface onto another independently, eliminating the aid of a caregiver. The device includes handles for additional support, allowing patients to leverage themselves using their upper body strength when being transferred. This device also includes attachments that provide a flush intersection to aid in the safe transfer to and from a variety of locations. The attachments have targeted specific locations, car and toilet seats, to further enable and promote patient independence.

Application area

Ensures sturdiness and durability when transferring patients
Improved functionality

Enables and promotes independent transfer
Versatile design
Helps reduce friction during lateral transfer
Individually assessed attachments allow compatibility with a wide variety of transfer surfaces
Toilet seats, wheelchairs, and car seats

Institution

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