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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET - Page 1 of 2

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

Express Mail Ladel No. EV 404 967 815 US								
		INVENTO	R(S)					
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname		()	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)			
Williams F.	Collins, Jr.				Columbus, Indiana			
James M.	Allen	Allen		Ва	Batesville, Indiana			
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Timothy D.	Wildman	Wildman			Metamora, Indiana			
Additional inventors are being named on the separately numbered sheets attached hereto								
	ITLE OF THE IN	IVENTION ((500 cha	racters max):				
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ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)								
Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFI			<u> </u>	CD(s), Number		 3		
Specification Number of Pages	51		\boxtimes	Other (specify	y) <u>C</u>	ertifica	te Under 37 CFR 1.10	
Drawing(s) Number of Sheets	14			Appendixes	1-5 (74 p	ages)		
Fees Due: Filing Fee of \$200 (\$100 for small entity). If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, an application size fee is also due, which is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).								
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF THE FILING FEE AND APPLICATION SIZE FEE FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR								
Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.								
A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fee and application size fee (if								
Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.								
The Director is hereby authorized to charge the filing fee and application size fee (if applicable) or credit any overpayment to Account Number: A duplicative copy of this form is enclosed for fee processing.								

USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.51. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 8 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Government. No. Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number a					
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TYPED or PRINTED NAME Ronald S. Henderson	REGISTRATION NO. 43669 (if appropriate)				
TELEPHONE 317-231-7341	Docket 7175-76311				



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group:

Unknown

Attorney Docket:

7175-76311

Applicant:

Williams F. Collins, Jr. et al.

Invention:

WIRELESS BED CONNECTIVITY

Filed:

Herewith (February 13, 2006)

Examiner:

Unknown

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Respectfully submitted,

Norall J. Helper

Signature

Ronald S. Henderson

Typed or Printed Name

Enclosure Indianapolis, Indiana (317) 231-7341



EXPRESS MAIL NUMBER EV 404 967 815 US

PATENT APPLICATION $\mbox{ of } \\ \mbox{WILLIAMS F. COLLINS, JR. }$

JAMES M. ALLEN

KEITH A. HUSTER

CARL W. RILEY

TRICIA A. GLIDEWELL

IRVIN J. VANDERPOHL III

RICHARD J. SCHUMAN

and

CHRISTOPHER A. MATHURA $for \\ CONFIGURABLE \ SYSTEM \ FOR \ ALERTING \ CAREGIVERS$

Client Reference N1-17130 Attorney Docket 7175-78408

INDS02 RSH 740330v1



WIRELESS BED CONNECTIVITY

[0001] It is envisioned that any utility application which will claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of this provisional application will also claim priority as a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 11/189,781, which was filed on July 27, 2005 and which claimed the benefit, under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e), of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/652,699 filed February 14, 2005; of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/642,692 filed January 10, 2005; and of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/598,045 filed August 2, 2004; each of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present disclosure relates to hospital beds and particularly, to data communication from hospital beds to other devices in a healthcare facility. More particularly, the present disclosure relates to data communication from hospital beds to remote computer devices and/or to portable wireless communication devices carried by caregivers.

[0003] Some hospital beds are configured to communicate information to a nurse call system. Such nurse call systems typically have a computer at a remote nurse's station with a display on which information concerning bed status is shown. One or more nurse call buttons are sometimes provided on a hospital bed, such as on one or more siderails of the bed and/or on a handheld pendant that is coupled to the bed. A patient may press one of the nurse call buttons to request to speak with a nurse. A nurse at the remote nurse's station and the patient may communicate with each other over a two-way communications link which includes audio circuitry, such as a microphone and a speaker included on the bed or mounted on a room wall near the bed. In addition, the nurse at the remote nurse's station may use the computer to establish a two-way communications link between the remote nurse's station and a caregiver at some other location in a healthcare facility and/or between the patient placing the nurse call and a caregiver at some other



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