MARKET OPPORTUNITY

There is mounting evidence that current bedpan designs contribute to significant problems for patients and health care providers in the form of significant discomfort, health problems, and increased costs. Most current bedpan designs are constructed primarily out of hard plastic or metal. These designs may contribute to skin breakdown on the buttocks, which can result in bedsores, which cost the healthcare industry in the US billions annually. Bed sores, also called pressure ulcers, tend to develop on bony prominences of the body, such as the sacrum (tailbone), from prolonged pressure that decreases blood circulation. Pressure ulcers cost between $9.1 and $11.6 billion per year. In particular, studies have shown that individual patient care costs range from $20,900 to $151,700 per pressure ulcer. Medicare estimated in 2007 that each pressure ulcer added $43,180 in costs to a hospital stay. It has also been estimated that bed sores are 95% preventable. The hard plastic and metal bedpan designs cause significant pressure. The problems associated with current bedpan designs are exacerbated in environments such as acute care hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, and skilled nursing homes and in-home care where patients are often bedbound and must perform bowel function in a bed. Many such patients have decreased sensation to feel the hard plastic or metal beneath their skin and/or have decreased mobility that would restrict their ability to move to appropriately relieve pressure. Performing bowel functions lying down, especially after injury, prolongs the process of toileting due to decreased gravitational pull. Thus, more time on a bedpan is typically needed compared to toileting upright on a standard toilet or commode. Further, many such patients are reliant on a caregiver for rolling onto and off of a bedpan, and human error can exacerbate the situation. A caregiver might not to remember to take a patient off of a bedpan immediately after use, or in some unfortunate cases, a caregiver may neglect to do so for a substantial amount of time.

SOLUTION on next page

PRODUCT TITLE
Padded Bedpan

INVENTOR
Meghan Chiaraluce, OTR/L and Gaylord Hospital, Inc.

VALUE OF PROPOSITION

• Market opportunities in many healthcare settings—acute care hospitals & rehabilitation centers
• Upgrade to existing device
• Improves skin integrity which reduces hospital acquired pressure injury
• Improves comfort and patient satisfaction

STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

• Design developed
• Available for non-exclusive and exclusive license for human use

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Status:
Provisional patent application filed

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SOLUTION

To mitigate these risks and costs, an upgraded solution is required. What is needed, therefore, is a bedpan design that reduces pressure on patients’ bony prominences. Patients with decreased mobility and/or sensation, such as those with a spinal cord injury, neurological dysfunction including Multiple Sclerosis (MS) or Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), or orthopedic injuries that result in limited mobility, including hip and pelvic fixation surgery would benefit from such a design. A bedpan that has a pressure relieving surface is desirable in the medical field. This surface would be non-porous to allow the patient to reuse this device after sanitized by appropriate personnel.