

CLAIMS)

- 1.) A turning platform having longitudinally extending side portions (2, 3) hinged to a central portion (1) and hydraulic, or pneumatic, expansion means (8, 9) beneath each side portion operated by control means (11) to raise and lower said side portions by rotating them about the hinges (5) in a predetermined sequence; characterised in that the side portions are configured to raise and turn a patient lying on the central portion in a predetermined sequence.
2. A turning platform as claimed in claim 1 in which said central portion (1) is connected to a lower element (7) between which and each side portion the expansion means is located.
3. A turning platform as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 in which each of said expansion means (8, 9) includes an expansible bladder.
4. A turning platform as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 in which the control means (11) can be operated to deliver fluid to expansion means (8, 9) beneath each side portion in a predetermined sequence.
5. A turning platform as claimed in claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3 in which the control means (11) can be operated to deliver gas to said expansion means (8, 9) beneath each side portions in a predetermined sequence.
6. A turning platform as claimed in any one of preceding claims 1 to 5 in which the control means (11) is configured to act in a timed sequence to raise one side portion (2) gradually over a specified time period, lower said side portion, proceed through a dwell stage and then raise the other side portion (3) gradually over a specified time period, and to then continue with the timed sequences cut off.
7. A turning platform as claimed in claim 6 in which the raising and lowering of each side portion (2, 3) extends over a time period of approximately ten minutes and the dwell stage over ten to twenty minutes or any other time sequence, as required.

8. A turning platform as claimed in claim 6 or claim 7 in which the control means (11) can be adjusted to vary the time periods.

9. A turning platform as claimed)in any one of the preceding claims including means for attachment to a supporting bed or bed frame)(15).

~~10. A turning platform as claimed in any one of the preceding claims 1 to 9 in which one end (20) can be raised in relation to the remainder (21) about a transverse hinge line normal)to its length.~~

~~11. A turning platform as claimed in claim 10 in which each of the side portions (2, 3) is provided as two separate parts (24, 25) each of which has a separate expansion means (26, 27) beneath it, one of said parts being on the end (20) which can be raised and the other being on the remainder)(21).~~

~~12. A turning platform as claimed in claim 11 in which the separate expansion means) (26, 27) beneath each of the side portions are connected (35) to operate simultaneously.~~

~~13. A turning platform as claimed in claim 11 or claim 12 in which the two separate parts (24, 25) of)each side portion)are divided by a V-shaped gap (36) formed by the angled ends of the adjacent two separate parts.~~

~~14. A turning platform as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 13 when dependant on claim 2 in which the lower element (29, 30) is provided with a transverse hinge at the transverse hinge line)(34).~~

~~15~~10. A turning platform as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in combination with)or attached to a supporting bed or bed frame)(15).