

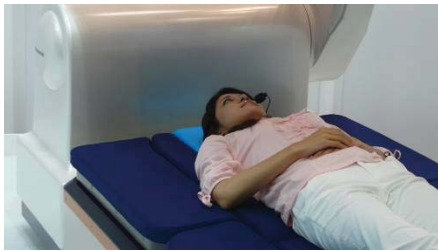
Robotic Bed that transforms into wheelchair

Panasonic unveiled its Robotic Bed at the 36th H.C.R. 2009 which ran in Tokyo from September 29 to October 1. The innovative bed-shaped robot turns into a wheelchair, which looks like a business-class seat on an aircraft, and lets the user easily move around within the room. It is designed to help the elderly and people with disability to lead an independent life. Here is how it works:

The user in the bed gives a voice command: "Robotic Bed, turn into a wheel chair" (Photo 1). Responding to the command, the backrest of the bed rises and the mattress, which is divided into several pieces, forms the chair (Photo 2). The bed's robotic canopy automatically rises when the unit transforms and the chair section automatically slides out from the bed (Photo 3). A mouse-like controller on the right arm of the chair (Photos 5 & 6) allows for easy operation of the chair. The robot can detect people and obstacles and help the user avoid collisions (Photo 7). Now the user is safely guided around to join the family meal without assistance from other people (Photo 8). To return to the bed, just touch the switch on the left arm of the chair (Photo 9) when it nears the bed. Then the chair positions itself to automatically dock with the bed (Photo 10).

There is an LCD panel fitted to the robotic canopy (Photos 11 & 12). The panel is connected to the Internet, allowing the user to check security cameras around the house, watch TV and control household energy systems. Even in bed, the user can always keep in touch with the family in another room via TV phone.

A Robotic Bed poster at the HCR exhibition. It says: The bed turns into a wheelchair while the user stays in bed; It not only helps people with limited mobility to lead an independent life but also reduces burden of care workers.



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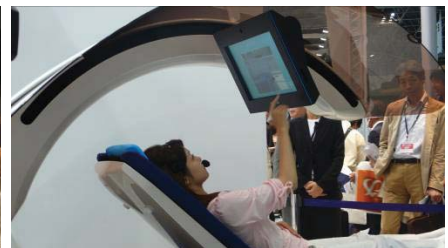
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