SYSTEM, METHOD, AND APPARATUS FOR REMOTE PATIENT CARE

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present application is a continuation application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/683,637, filed Nov. 14, 2019 and entitled System, Method, and Apparatus for Remote Patient Care, which will be U.S. Pat. No. 11,109,934, issuing on Sep. 7, 2021 (Attorney Docket No. AA061) which is a continuation application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/163,906, filed May 25, 2016 and entitled System, Method, and Apparatus for Remote Patient Care, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,478,261 issued Nov. 19, 2019 (Attorney Docket No. S07) which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 62/168,343, filed May 29, 2015 and entitled System, Method, and Apparatus for Remote Patient Care (Attorney Docket No. Q23) which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

Relevant Field

[0002] The present disclosure relates to patient care. More particularly, the present disclosure relates to a system, method and apparatus for using a kit for providing patient care.

Description of Related Art

[0003] Healthcare may be delivered in a centralized, decentralized or hybride mode of care. For example, healthcare may be performed by a centralized institution or by smaller, localized care (e.g., in-home care). As care networks look to improve the value of every dollar spent they are learning that alternate care models, and hence environments, have the potential to both decrease expenditures and increase results. One of the key ingredients in this future ecosystem is the interplay between home care and retail medicine.

[0004] Some patients may be admitted to a healthcare institution that could potentially receive the same, or better, care at home using a leaner, more agile care model. To facilitate this type of care, patients will need access to the appropriate medical supplies and monitoring the patient would typically receive in a hospital bed with the aid of professional caregivers. Further, the professional caregiver will need an easy and predictable way to transform the patients residence into a recovery area outfitted with the appropriate technology to meet both the patient and the caregiver's needs.

SUMMARY

[0005] In accordance with one aspect of the present disclosure, a portable patient-care kit is provided. The kit includes two-housing portions, a plurality of compartments, a touch-screen user interface device, and a light bar. The two-housing portions pivotally coupled together to form a container space. The plurality of compartments is disposed within at least one of the housing portions such that each compartment is configured to retain at least one medical apparatus. The touch-screen user interface device has a transceiver that can communicate via a mobile data network. The light bar is disposed along an exterior of one of the two-housing portions configured provide light. The claims describe exemplary aspects and embodiments.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] These and other aspects will become more apparent from the following detailed description of the various embodiments of the present disclosure with reference to the drawings wherein:

[0007] FIG. **1** shows a portable kit for patient care in a transportation configuration in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0008] FIG. **2** shows the portable kit to illustrate the light bar that indicates a communicable status of the portable kit in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0009] FIG. **3** shows an open portable kit to show the various compartments and a user interface in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0010] FIG. **4** shows an open portable kit with an open compartment having several physiological measuring devices in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0011] FIG. **5** shows an open portable kit with an open compartment having a pill dispenser in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0012] FIG. **6** shows an open portable kit with an open compartment having a gravity-based intravenous infusion pump in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0013] FIG. **7** shows an open portable kit with an open compartment having an oxygen tank in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure; and

[0014] FIG. **8** shows an open portable kit with an open compartment having an activity monitor and a spirometer in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0015] FIG. **1** shows a portable kit **100** for patient care in transportation configuration in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. The kit includes wheels **104** and a handle **102** to facilitate portability.

[0016] FIG. **2** shows the portable kit to illustrate the light bar **106** that indicates a communicable status of the portable kit **100** in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. A light bar **106** surrounds a portion of the kit. The light bar **106** may be formed by one or more LEDs having various colors or intensities with a light diffuser to give the appearance of a solidly lit bar **106**. The light bar **106** may be illuminated with a variety of colors and intensities. The light bar **106** may also be illuminated with repeating or periodic patterns of color and/or intensities. For example, the light bar **106** may blink. In some embodiments of the present disclosure, one or more foldable legs may be pivotally connected to the kit **100** such that it may be stood on its side to form a table-like structure.

[0017] FIG. **3** shows an open portable kit **100** to show the various compartments and a user interface in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. The kit **100** may be a "Universal" home kit. The "Universal" home kit may be a pre-packaged home care ecosystem that can be sent home with a patient as a result of a medical appointment and/or a caregiver-order prescription. For example, the kit **100** may be provided by a prescribing physician, institutional hospital, or retail healthcare clinic. The kit **100** may