Repositioning Hip Surgery Patients is Easier and Safer with the Ableware®
Leg Assist™ Mobility Device from Maddak Inc.

Caring for individuals recovering from hip or knee replacement surgery, means making sure both legs are moved in unison in order to avoid further injury. Coordinating the exact movements can be difficult and, in some cases, cause back strain on the caregiver. Maddak Inc., manufacturer of Ableware® aids for daily living, recently introduced the new Leg Assist™ Mobility Device designed to provide caregivers with an easier, safer way to lift and move the legs of a patient in unison, while keeping them in line with the hips to prevent further injury.

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Though the ideal would be no movement, in reality, individuals recovering from hip surgery must occasionally move their legs during the early stages following surgery. Kathleen Hanek, Director of Product Development for Maddak Inc., says “Often a caregiver will reposition the legs by grasping the legs or ankles of the patient and gently swinging him around to the desired position; another method is for the caregiver to place one forearm underneath the legs while stabilizing them with the other arm. In either case it is very difficult for the caregiver to move both legs in unison and failure to do so can be quite painful and even injurious.”

The Leg Assist™ Mobility Device was developed by Sue Kirkwood, a spouse who found herself in the position of caregiver when her husband was recovering from hip surgery. Hanek tells us “Sue had so much difficulty trying to move his legs in unison and keep them in line with his hips as she had been instructed that she decided to invent something that would make the process easier and safer.”

The Leg Assist™ is a soft cotton strap that wraps around the patient’s ankles and stabilizes the legs. To use it, Hanek explains “The caregiver places the open Leg Assist™ under the patient’s ankles, making sure the ankles are centered on the device, then wraps the Leg Assist around the ankles and secures it using the hook and loop closure. When the patient is ready to complete his transfer the caregiver grasps the upper and lower sections of the strap between the ankles to form a single hand grip that is used to safely lift and rotate the patient’s legs in unison while maintaining the relative position of each leg with respect to the other. Sue Kirkwood who recently found herself in need of the product she developed asserts “This product can assist in taking care of a family member recovering from leg/knee surgery at home. It takes less physical effort on the part of the caregiver and assures that the legs are safely positioned for movement. When my husband underwent his second hip replacement surgery I was glad I had taken the time to create the Leg Assist (mobility device). We used it during his recovery. I was more at ease when moving him and we found it made the whole process of moving his legs much less stressful.”

Dr. Michael Knapie, D.O., Mr. Kirkwood’s orthopedic surgeon, endorses the Leg Assist and says “My experience with the demonstration of this product is that one person is quite capable of providing significant assistance to a patient by utilizing the Leg Assist device as instructed. I believe this would be a significantly
useful tool for home care use in the treatment and care of patients after total hip and total knee replacement type surgeries.”

The Ableware® Leg Assist™ Mobility Device, item 70420-0000, has a suggested retail price of $24.95. For more information on this product and the complete line of Ableware® products visit our web site – www.maddak.com. For a catalog or a list of dealers contact us: Maddak Inc., 6 Industrial Road, Pequannock, NJ 07440-1993, Tel: 800-443-4926, Fax: 973-305-0841, or Email: custservice (at) maddak (dot) com.

About Maddak
Maddak Inc. manufactures products that simplify the tasks of daily living – eating, drinking, dressing, grooming, bathing, toileting, etc. – for seniors, people with disabilities and people undergoing rehabilitation. The company mission is to provide quality products that enable people to maximize their independence and remain active despite any limitations they may face. Marketed under the Ableware® brand name, the Maddak product line includes over 500 products sold through medical and hospital supply centers, pharmacies, homecare centers and internet outlets. Established in 1971, Maddak Inc., headquartered in Pequannock, NJ is the largest U.S. manufacturer of assistive devices, clinical modalities, home healthcare and rehabilitation products. View our complete product line at www.maddak.com.

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