

Local Woman Receives Patent for Therapeutic Product

January 1, 2010 Comfortstretch® became available for patients with knee and arm contractures; the patent issued January 22nd 2013.

Mary Blank has learned much from the lengthy process of securing a patent and has worked diligently with her lawyer filing the Provisional and Non Provisional patent applications as well as responding to several office actions prior to the issuance of the patent.

This simple to use in-home therapeutic tool targets muscles while they are relaxed and at rest. Several physical therapists in the area are using Comfortstretch and are very pleased with the design and success they have had using this product. One therapist said: "This is such a simple and inexpensive, yet effective way for families to carry out a home stretching program. I don't know why someone didn't think of it before!" Another therapist stated she has had good luck with her knee patients.

Out of a desire to help her grandson straighten his contracted leg and to alleviate some of the pain associated with this procedure, Mary was inspired to develop Comfortstretch. Zachary has Cerebral Palsy and has endured years of therapy, from infancy on, to keep his muscles flexible. At age 26 Zack continues to visit Easter Seals once a week where he and Mary work with various machines, under the direction of a therapist, to keep him flexible. At home, Zack uses Comfortstretch once a week while he is resting comfortably in a recliner watching TV and his leg becomes straight.

Zachary does not complain of any discomfort while using Comfortstretch, and will remind his mother to put it on his leg. Seeing how straight his leg becomes after stretching is encouraging for Zack.

Comfortstretch has been a part of a PowerPoint presentation at the National Spina Bifida Conference in 2010, 2011 and 2012, held in Cincinnati, Ohio, Anaheim, California and Indianapolis, Indiana. Elizabeth Kelly, PT of Pediatric Physical Therapy, Inc., Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital, The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, Hershey, PA stated: "...a wonderful idea, so much better than my soccer socks with soup cans." Liz went on to say, "I would like to give our families in the SB and CP clinic at Penn State your information. Thanks for a thoughtful product."

Comfortstretch may also be used as an exercise tool to strengthen muscles that support the knee injured from sports, or arthritis, etc. Stretching contracted arms may be less painful because the person is not required to hold a weight to draw the arm down, muscles would be more relaxed.

The amount of weight used is always determined by a physician or physical therapists. Comfortstretch may be used with either hand weights or items found in the home, such as a bag of sugar or canned goods, when the Ad-on Cradle is attached.

Visit www.comfortstretch.com for more information.

