

Get acquainted with Bea

The egg of Columbus, thus defined the attendant of my mother the short distance transfer aid, with which my mother now easy is 'transferred' from one seat to another. I agreed at once.

My mother, not being mobile anymore, appeared after her removal of the home for older people to a nursing home all of a sudden to be able to stand again. In this `Bea'. And how easy it is: sitting on the bedside, Bea gets around you, you grasp the rods and come to stand, a sitting board is laid down, you sit and are driven away. On the place of destination (e.g. the toilet) the inverse procedure is done.



Bea, short distance transfer aid

I stood literally with my mouth open and looked at this magic tool and wanted to know more. The explanation on the web states simply: "Devised by an authority: the son of the first user." That asks for a search, does it not?

By means of the Internet, one of the suppliers, the occupational therapist of my mother and the producer United Care, I arrived at Tebbo de Jong (former United Care). He knew everything of the Bea and I was taken away by his enthusiasm - insofar that still was necessary 😊

The designer is Ronald Neut, a former stationmaster in the south of Belgium. The `Bea' have been born from frustration, because no good mechanical aid was available for standing up and the `transfer' hereafter. Mister Neut went to Tebbo de Jong and United Care, because he needed a producer. Meanwhile thousands have been sold, but mainly in the intramural care. Ah, intramural, for this reason I knew nothing about it. I only recently found out more about the intramural elderly care, and my knowledge about the intramural care for people with learning disabilities is too old.

An obvious question is of course why Bea is hardly used `extramural' or `at home'. That is possible, but there are some problems. In the Netherlands local social services do not compensate for it, moreover thresholds in house must be removed. Moreover, I think, you

must also know that the Bea exists. Meanwhile I found out that an alternative has been developed, the `Steady' (with larger wheels), but again you must know about it. Moreover this seems a bit more expensive...

Back to Bea. Tebbo de Jong explains that the Bea of course is constantly being improved. Thus there is a movable foot beam for smaller people such as people with Down's syndrome. He tells also that mister Neut received an innovation price for appliances in Belgium in about 1997. But where to find information about this on the web?

I will search for it. But in spite of aid by means of Twitter and of Vilans (innovation price in the Netherlands) I have not yet been successful. This is therefore to be continued.

Annet van Betuw

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Hints:

- Search for appliances in the Netherlands: www.vindeenhulpmiddel.nl
- Choose in the care (NL) www.kiesbeter.nl
- [United Care Bea opstahulp](http://www.unitedcare.nl)
- Short distance transfer aid Bea: <http://www.independentliving.co.uk/standing-aids.html>

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** photograph Bea originating from Internet site United Care*