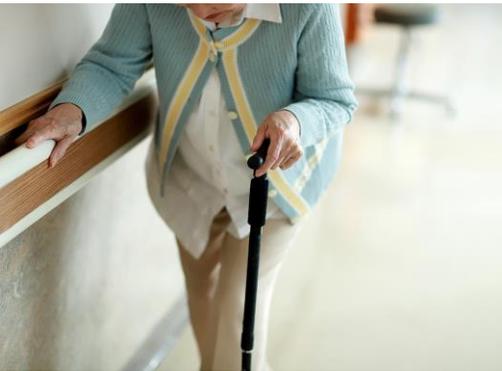


Assessing the value of assistive technology & home modifications for people living with dementia and their carers



Social care workers, advocacy groups and consumer organisations routinely recommend “Assistive Technology”, such as specialised bath seats, rails, pendant alarms for people with dementia and their carers. Assistive Technology (AT) should help people to live independently but we do not know much about how it really ‘works’ to help people to live independently with dementia over time.

What did we do?

This research followed British people living with dementia and their carers over several years. An advisory board of people living with dementia, carers and social care experts such as occupational therapists (OTs) helped us to identify questions on AT and independent living and were involved in shaping the project. We produced a literature review of models that show how people’s interactions with AT and their home environments can affect their outcomes, and we looked at how useful these models would be for researchers and practitioners. We used models located in the literature review to help us organise the analyses of the IDEAL data, to investigate how the home environment could be adapted to fit the needs and preferences of people living with dementia and their carers.

How will it help?

The project papers have not been published yet, but we presented the literature review results internally to our public advisors and externally to the Royal College of Occupational Therapy conference. We will publicise our papers when they are published using blogs, social media and networks like the ARC.



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