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Conference Abstract

The AKTIVE project: how telecare can improve the lives of older people prone to falls or who suffer memory problems

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Abstract

The role of assistive technology (telecare) in social care has been recognised by the UK government, with policies and initiatives already in place to support its implementation. Nevertheless, detailed research exploring its use has been limited in scope. The AKTIVE project (Advancing Knowledge of Telecare for Independence and Vitality in later life) explores how telecare can improve the lives of older people in England prone to falls or who suffer memory problems. Working in two English localities, researchers visited approximately 60 older people using telecare six times over a period of a year. Data was collected using a methodology called Everyday Living Analysis, which explores different aspects of participants' lives (e.g. relationships, past employment, homes and environment) and how these relate to telecare use. It was found that telecare has a wide range of impacts upon older people's capacity to live independent lives, manage risk, relate to carers and medical professionals, deal with social isolation, and negotiate their home environments. This paper reports on the important contribution telecare can make to the social care of older people in an ageing society.

Keywords:

telecare, dementia, falls, independence, safety

Presentation available at: <http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/events/third-annual-international-congress-telehealth-and-telecare>