Purpose An examination of the drivers and obstacles to the adoption of technology in dementia care in the UK. In response to the demographics of dementia, rising demands for care and support, and policy drivers such as the National Dementia Strategy, UK health and social services are transforming existing models of care for people with long term conditions and technology is beginning to emerge as a key component. However, the jump from technological innovation and early adoption amongst local councils and health trusts to universal roll out may falter. Despite successful pilots[1], mainstreaming has been more cautious. Financial downturn tests health and social care 'partnerships' and commissioners weigh investment risk against outcomes and benefits over time looking hard at the evidence gap particularly in respect of cost-effectiveness related to performance[2]. Effectiveness begs the question of who measures what and how do they count? Revealing inherent tensions between patients/users/consumers and organisational stakeholders. There is a plethora of technologies to reduce household risk, monitor safety and physical health and behaviour, but those that help deliver quality of life outcomes[3] are often more valued by people with dementia. At a local level, lack of appropriate training, infrastructure and adequate guidance for professionals making assessments, and technical back up is uneven. Allocation of integrated community aids, equipment, and procurement sometimes suffers from the silo behaviour of local health and social care services. Meanwhile, local councils and trusts have had to address critical gaps in technology connectivity and interoperability, information systems and how data is generated, stored, and analysed[4]. At the same time private individuals are increasingly taking advantage of the convergence of technologies, platforms and devices and making decisions without public authorities. An overarching consideration is the impact of technology on carers of people with dementia. The volume of demand for support from people with dementia in the UK is set to rise substantially in the next decade and beyond. Targets to reduce inappropriate admissions to hospitals and long term care and continuing budgetary pressures are likely to result in more personalised health and care with technology as a core component.

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