

M. CONCI. *Smart Home technology acceptance: Beyond technology*. *Gerontechnology* 2012;11(2):160; doi:10.4017/gt.2012.11.02.441.00 **Purpose** An increasing miniaturization in ICT has made possible smart home technology (SH-t) to become less and less intrusive in the home. This in turn has made it possible to move from a basic SH-t aimed at assisting people, to a more evolved environment, which not only assists people inside their home, but also connects them with different services directed at health monitoring, communication, leisure, and social inclusion at a distance. Hence, we can define SH-t as a kit of networked sensors and miniaturized devices that go beyond the domestic assistance of a person, towards a more holistic approach for supporting a person to cope also with social and psychological issues. With this in mind, an assessment of the acceptance of a technology would not be complete without taking into account the service that it delivers and the social context where it will be introduced. **Method** Starting from a literature review of some of the most cited models aimed at predicting (assistive) technology acceptance¹⁻³ we propose a general model that attempts to predict the acceptance of SH-t by older people, considering also factors related to the service (e.g. preference for human touch, user satisfaction) and the social context of the user. **Results & Discussion** Regarding this technology a lot of usable and intuitive devices have been entering the market, which are suitable also for people with little familiarity with technology. However, the relevance of the service and the influence of the social context become of utmost importance for making older people try and adopt new SH-t. We argue that SH-t might have more success among older adults if they were presented as part of a service and not only as assistive (and stigmatizing) devices.

References

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