

M.M. SINOÛ, H.S.M. KORT. **Visual functioning and visual comfort in care facilities for older adults.** *Gerontechnology* 2013; 12(1):59; doi:10.4017/gt.2013.12.1.005.00 **Purpose** In the Netherlands, the highest prevalence (>40%) of visual impairments is found in the subgroup of residents of nursing homes and care institutions<sup>1</sup>. These impairments are limiting to daily activities and participation in social activities of older adults<sup>2</sup>. Research of light conditions in relation to health is one aspect of building physics and frequently investigated in different age groups. Light conditions influence daily activity and the biological clock in older adults with dementia<sup>3-6</sup>. This PhD-project aims to investigate aspects of visual comfort in the nursing home. The framework of this study is the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF). The model provides an overview of various aspects of health conditions in terms of the influencing activities of biological, personal, environmental, and social factors. In the ICF a health condition (eye disease) can be described in relation to a loss of visual functioning and subsequently in limitations in activities and restrictions in participation. This is related to environmental and personal factors. Within the ICF the environmental factors are classified in the physical (light conditions) and social environment (awareness of professional carers). **Method** Assessment of visual impairments, client records and light conditions in seven nursing homes in the Netherlands. **Results & Discussion** In nursing homes professional carers need more focus on diagnosing visual functioning and visual impairments as well as on environmental factors. Raising the awareness on visual functioning, recording in client files as well as optimising luminance levels by professional carers are important aspects for visual comfort of the nursing home resident.

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**Keywords:** social functioning, care support, housing & daily living, field study

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**Full paper:** No