PAPER

Technology for Health

M. SJÖLINDER, A. AVATARE NÖU, J. FRISTEDT. ICT services for nursing homes – a needs analysis. Gerontechnology 2018;17(Suppl):140s; https://doi.org/10.4017/gt.2018.17.s.136.00 **Purpose** A longitudinal study of the impact of information and communication technology (ICT) usage has shown that ICT can make it easier for older adults to keep in touch with the outside world and maintain a social life[1]. Other studies have shown that ICT solutions and social networks can give a direct sense of better integration and increased connection with family, friends as well as with society in general, thereby reducing the sense of isolation[2,3]. The aim with this study was to investigate the need for new ICT services at nursing homes in Sweden. The study was conducted together with the Municipality of Linköping. The focus of the study was to gain a better understanding of how technology was used today and how the participants (older residents, care personnel and next of kin) wanted to use the technology in the future. **Method** Three different types of living for older adults were included in the study: (1) apartments for older adults (varying need of support), (2) residential homes (large need of support), and (3) homes for older adults with dementia. The target groups were older adults living at the nursing homes, their next of kin and the care personnel at nursing homes. The work was conducted in terms of focus groups. One focus group was held at each residence and participants from all three user categories participated. Topics discussed during the focus groups were daily living, safety and social relations. Both, technology and different aids were also discussed with respect to how they used existing technology and how they wanted to use technology in the future. At the end of the sessions, services were ranked by importance to get a better understanding of which service to introduce first. **Results & Discussion** The technology that was found to be most relevant was large screens for public areas where users could interact with the screen via tablets. Not only did this serve as an introduction to technology but it also showed the possible benefits of technology and its potential areas for usage. The participants suggested that the large screen could be used for services that support social interaction of people outside the nursing home and sharing of common interests. Individual tablets were also discussed as a tool where both older adults and care personnel could follow up on given care. Other suggestions that came up during the focus groups was the possibility to use technology for conducting simple medical tests remotely and stimulating sensory perception. Finally, some of the nursing homes had technology ambassadors that inspired the rest of the personnel, and there was a strong focus on finding application areas and services that actually were meaningful to use for the older adults.

References
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