

POSTER

Health and Self-Esteem

L. SKÄR, S. SÖDERBERG. *The importance of ethical aspects when implementing eHealth services in healthcare. Gerontechnology 2018;17(Suppl):176s*; <https://doi.org/10.4017/gt.2018.17.s.171.00> **Purpose** Challenges in healthcare today include a growing older population, and as a consequence, an increased need for healthcare services. One possible solution is the use of eHealth services¹. Thus, healthcare professionals' knowledge of and commitment to eHealth services in care are important for developers and users of the technology to be aware of ethical aspects to ensure that patient care is safe, secure, and accessible for older people and their families². To support the development of eHealth services for safe care, both patients and healthcare professionals should participate in the design process in order to develop and implement needs-based eHealth services from an ethical perspective³. The aim of this study was to discuss the importance of ethical aspects when implementing eHealth services in healthcare. **Method** This discussion paper was based on literature published between the year 2000 and 2017, to get the latest published studies in the field. The data was compiled from the following databases; CINAHL, PubMed, and Scopus from January 2017 – March 2017. Initially 855 articles were retrieved. The articles found constitutes of original research describing a variety of eHealth services, from the perspective of different users (older people, relatives, healthcare professionals, designers, technicians) within different areas. The articles titles and abstracts were then read through for relevance to take in only those including ethical aspects when implementing eHealth services in healthcare. This resulted in identifying 30 articles being consider for discussion together with laws, government reports and control documents. **Results & Discussion** Implementing eHealth services in healthcare involves ethical challenges in which different technologies can solve different problems in different ways. Therefore, eHealth services should be developed and implemented based on the older people's specific needs and conditions for use and in accordance with the healthcare professionals' presumption to provide high quality care. To preserve older people's integrity, dignity, and autonomy, healthcare professionals must include ethical aspects when implementing and using eHealth services in healthcare. Healthcare professionals have to take responsibility for the eHealth services introduced, explaining why and how they are implemented based on a person-centered approach⁴. However, more knowledge is needed about ethical aspects when implementing eHealth services to improve the quality of care.

References

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