# The Memory Technology Library



## **Telecare**

### "I just wish we knew if something would happen"

People with memory problems or dementia may experience confusion; a lack confidence in their judgements, balance problems or changes in their perception e.g. changes in vision, hearing, and sensitivity to temperatures or depth perception. These difficulties should be addressed early, so that the person has the greatest chance of living well at home. People with memory problems or dementia may also experience confusion, even in familiar places people can become disorientated and feel lost. People with dementia can sometimes wander and this event can become concerning for the person involved and their carers.

Telecare is an at home, technology intervention that has been designed to aid the person with dementia to live well in their own home, facilitate independence and provide support for carers.



#### What is it?

'Telecare' typically involves the installation of small sensors in the home in order to monitor and detect risk situations.

The sensors can be linked to a monitoring centre that alerts the relevant parties (e.g. informal carers or emergency services) when a risk situation is detected, who then make the appropriate response (e.g. call to the home to check on the person).

#### Telecare can monitor:

- environmental risks (such as fire or flooding)
- movement/ activity detection (e.g. leaving the home at inappropriate times, or relevant patterns of movement/activity within the home)
- falls
- medication patterns



Telecare is very specific to each individual, it can involve as little or as much as required.

Telecare should be considered in consultation with your local health professional.

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### Experiencing difficulties with some of the following?

You should consult your local Occupational Therapist, as Telecare may offer you some support;

- Is the person with dementia living alone
- Has the person with dementia local, responsive support
- Is the person with dementia experiencing difficulty during the night? (Leaving the bed, the house, using the toilet during the night)
- Are there any concerns in the kitchen? (Using the appliances, regular diet, using the taps, kettles etc.)
- Has the person experienced any falls in the past?
- Is the person safe in their use of the bathroom?
- Are there concerns about leaving the home and returning safely?
- Is the person with dementia responsive to alarms? (Smoke, carbon monoxide?)
- Has the person maintained continence throughout the day and night?
- Any concerns regarding medication management?



4 Personal Alarm



4 Flood Detector



4 Falls Detector



4 Heat Detector