



Ontario Shores
Centre for Mental Health Sciences

Simply Put: Research Summaries

Occupational Therapists' Views of Assisted Living Technology

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Simply Put: Research Summaries briefly describe research studies done by Ontario Shores researchers and collaborators. These summaries make our research available to the wider community interested in mental health research. They highlight interesting and relevant research and researchers at Ontario Shores. The authors at Ontario Shores are bolded in the About the Researchers section.

Please contact us for further information ontarioshoresresearch@ontarioshores.ca

What's it about?

Understanding the views of occupational therapists regarding assistive living technology is important as it can influence the quality of care provided as well as a patient's successful recovery.

This study explores what occupational therapists believe are factors that need to be in place to support them in recommending assisted living technology (ALT) to older adults. It describes how occupational therapists overcome obstacles to the use of ALT and provides some solutions.

What did the researchers do?

They interviewed 20 occupational therapists who represented five areas of clinical practice; geriatric

mental health, spinal cord injury, rheumatology, general medicine and respiratory rehabilitation.

What did they find?

- Affordability and usability were frequently cited barriers to technology adoption
- Time and education/training influence the adoption of ALT's by occupational therapists
- Positive client therapy relationships support the adoption of ALT's by older adults

The look, feel, size and materials used to create assisted devices were a key point for users. Occupational therapists believed older adults did not want to use devices that were "too medicalized." Older adults wanted devices to be discrete or unobstructive as they didn't want to be seen as dependent or vulnerable.

Why this research matters?

This study has identified the core enabling factors necessary to support the adoption of assisted living technology by occupational therapists so the well-being of older adults could be improved by accessing ALT devices.

About the Researchers

Colleen McGrath is an Assistant Professor, School of Occupational Therapy, Western University, London, Ontario, Canada

Maggie Ellis is a Lecturer, School of Psychology & Neuroscience, University of St Andrews, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Sarah Harney-Levine is a Research Assistant in Human Nutrition, Department of Oncology & Metabolism, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Dave Wright is a PhD student, Brighton Business School, University of Brighton, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Elizabeth A. Williams is a Senior Lecturer in Human Nutrition, Department of Oncology & Metabolism, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Faustina Hwang is an Associate Professor of Digital Health, Biomedical Engineering Section, School of Biological Sciences,

University of Reading, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Arlene Astell is the Ontario Shores Research Chair in the Community Management of Dementia and Professor of Health Services Research, Centre for Assistive Technology & Connected Healthcare, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Keywords

occupational therapists, technology adoption, assisted living technology

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