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**Title of project:** The process of Assistive Technology needs assessment for effective delivery of services for people living with dementia at home

### Abstract

The use of assistive technology by occupational therapists for people living at home with dementia needs further consideration if services are to be effective.

Assistive technology includes systems and devices which help people to perform everyday tasks. For people with dementia it has the potential to increase their safety, support their well-being and promote their participation in meaningful activity.

However, research has not been able to show that assistive technology does actually help people. The problem does not lie with the design of the technology but rather with what is involved in assessing, selecting and adapting it. Particular challenges are

- the limited knowledge generally about assistive technology;
- the limited skills of those who assess people for this service;
- the restricted access to appropriate help.

How people's needs are currently assessed should be examined, together with how clinicians use this information to select suitable aids.

This study will use an online survey to look at the experiences of clinicians who provide an assistive technology service for people living with dementia.

It will explore their views regarding what is involved in the best assessments, develop an understanding of the obstacles in providing effective aids, and identify areas for potential improvement.



This information will be examined alongside the views of people who access services and providers. Comparing all of that with the published literature could help to identify what will support and improve those services. This study aims to inform future applications for research funding to transform the provision of occupational therapy assistive technology services for people living at home with dementia.