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Topic: Acceptance of Home Video Monitoring: The Trade-off Model

Problem & Motivation: The Canadian population is aging rapidly. As older adults require more health care services, solutions are being sought for shifting the delivery of some of these services from hospitals and nursing facilities to clients' homes. As there are already care provider shortages, one proposed approach is to incorporate multiple sensor technologies such as cameras, and pressure sensitive sensors [1] throughout residences. These sensors aim to monitor everything from oven use to blood pressure to falls in the home. The acceptance of these sensors by the smart home's occupants depends on many factors, which this paper investigates.

Approach & Uniqueness: We reviewed the findings of four focus groups which discussed various aspects of video monitoring for health and safety reasons. We then apply the trade-off model to these findings [2].

Results & Contributions: Participants in one focus group [3] that reported privacy concerns when discussing the concept of video monitoring had reduced concerns when assuming that there was a proven need for monitoring with video. In this context, usefulness outweighed privacy [3]. Courtney [4] showed that older adults' "own perceptions of their need for the technology can override their privacy concerns." Participants felt the privacy intrusion was tolerable in exchange for feeling safe in their own homes [5]. Participants in many studies stated they would accept the use of video monitoring if it allowed them to stay in their homes longer [4], [6]. The concept of video monitoring seemed to participants to be a violation of privacy, but when alternatives and usefulness were considered, some concerns were diminished. In all cases, video compared favorably to the nursing home environment.

In conclusion most participants had privacy concerns or felt the camera was intrusive. However, cameras were seen as less intrusive than a nursing home. The value of the video monitoring service was thought to be more important if the use of such devices allowed them to remain in their homes. Applying the trade-off model, we put forward that older healthy adults would likely not accept video surveillance in any situation, however frail older adults might be willing to "trade in their privacy" if it meant preventing nursing home placement.

References:

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