ARC East of England

Exploring older people's attitudes towards sharing activity monitoring data into social care services

How much will you share for care?

The UK Government has recommended that social care services utilise more data-driven technologies, including remote monitoring technology, to inform more proactive and preventative support and best utilise limited resources. While the technology is not new, sharing data into services is a newer proposition. Previously, this technology would be used to send information to an agreed-upon informal care network. There is a lack of research in this area, so it is not understood how people feel about sharing their activity data with social care services.

What is the aim of the project?

This project aims to understand older people's perceptions of sharing data into

social care services compared to sharing with informal carers. This will inform future considerations to improve technology service delivery.

What are we doing?

We have recruited 15 people with lived experience of social care services and we have conducted 14 semi-structured interviews. We are currently analysing the qualitative data (thematic analysis), which is in the process of data analysis to capture emerging themes.

How are we involving people?

We have consulted with three Experts by Experience throughout the project, involving them in monthly Community of Practice meetings to gather their views and feedback. Participants in the study were mainly service users; others were informal carers of those in receipt of care.

What is the impact so far?

Themes are still emerging, but it is apparent that public awareness of this technology is very low. There are concerns as to when and how this technology would be introduced into a person's care and how data would be used, as well as general data security issues. There is more trust and confidence in sharing data with informal care than in services, which would need addressing by services. A good assessment conversation will ensure the appropriateness and transparency of the perceived or intended outcomes expected by the user.

What next?

A research report will be written once the data analysis has concluded. It is expected to be completed by August 2024. So far, this project has informed future research questions.

For more information about this project

Scan the QR code or contact the Principal investigator, Chris Metcalf (chris.metcalf@norfolk.gov.uk).

What is NIHR ARC East of England?

The National Institute for Health and Care Research Applied Research Collaboration (NIHR ARC) East of England is one of the 15 NIHR ARCs. We collaborate with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust and the Universities of Cambridge, East Anglia, Hertfordshire and Essex, along with other NHS Trusts, Local Authorities, Integrated Care Systems, patient-led organisations, charities, and industry partners.

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