Dementia Care
Connected Healthcare Solutions

Key information for health, housing and social care professionals and carers
Dementia and technology

Dementia is one of the biggest challenges facing our society, and our ageing population means it is one that is set to grow. Dementia currently affects 850,000 people in the UK, a figure forecast to double in a generation and rise to more than 2 million by 2051.

Connected Healthcare technology such as telecare and telehealth has a key role to play in supporting people with dementia in a way that promotes independence as well as safeguarding them. Technology facilitates the delivery of care at home, enabling people with dementia to stay in familiar surroundings for as long as possible, helping them to enjoy a better quality of life for longer, as well as offering invaluable support to carers. When residential care becomes the most appropriate environment, technology can help to provide improved levels of care, supporting staff and protecting the safety and dignity of residents.

As more is understood about dementia in its various forms it is clear that enabling technology has the potential to make a significant and positive difference to the lives of people with dementia, and the ability of our health and social care systems to support their needs effectively.

This guide outlines some of the ways technology can contribute to improving the everyday lives of people with dementia as well as those who care for them.
Foreword from Alzheimer’s Society

Technologies such as telecare and telehealth offer an excellent opportunity to enhance the quality of life of both people living with dementia and their carers.

Technology must always be viewed in the context of complementing an individual’s care and support, rather than used as a replacement for human interaction. When employed in the right way it can enable people with dementia to remain independent, safe, and socially involved, helping them to live as well as possible and giving them greater choices about their care.

For carers, there is evidence to suggest that introducing telecare into their caring situation offers a range of benefits: improving the relationship with the person they care for, the opportunity to continue with activities they might otherwise have to give up, the ability to remain in paid employment in some cases, and more confidence about the safety and comfort of the person they care for.

To fully realise the benefits, technology should be introduced as early as possible in the care of an individual with dementia, and be tailored to their specific needs. Getting the right support in place early may mean that an individual can continue to live in an environment of their choice with independence and dignity; this is one of the many reasons timely diagnosis is vital.

The range of technology available is large, and growing, and can include everyday devices such as smartphones and tablets, as well as more specialist solutions. In addition to managing risks, such as falling, systems can also be put in place to offer insight into patterns of behaviour to enable effective care planning.

I hope you find this guide a useful overview of some of the solutions available, and how they can best be applied to help us deliver better dementia care and support.
What is Connected Care?

Connected Care can be described as the way technology seamlessly interlinks with the wider package of care and support a person receives. Rather than the technology being seen as an ‘add-on’ to or replacement of the care provided by care staff, increasingly the technology is seen as integral to the holistic care plan. It can also provide preventative support where a care plan is not required. Connected Care ensures people receive the right type and right amount of care they need at the time and place they need it and in a way that is more efficient and cost effective for the provider and commissioner.

Tunstall offers a range of Connected Care and Connected Health solutions, which use advanced technology to provide enhanced care and support for people with dementia. Solutions are tailored to the needs of the individual and their circumstances, and designed to evolve over time as the user’s requirements change.

Telecare, sometimes also called assistive technology, forms a key part of Tunstall’s Connected Care solutions, and is a system of devices, which supports people in their own home by helping to manage risk. Appropriate, unobtrusive sensors are placed around the home, which, if triggered, send an alert via a Lifeline home unit to a specialist monitoring centre, where trained operators can alert a carer, keyholder or the emergency services. Telecare can also be used by carers in the home or in supported or residential care environments, with alerts from sensors being received on a pager.

Telecare can provide assistance to the person to help them do things (e.g. remind them to take their medication, or not to leave home alone), and give them the means to easily ask for help by pressing a button, which can be worn on the wrist or around the neck. Telecare can also alert others of dangerous situations (e.g. if they were to have a fall or leave the gas on).

Examples of technology in use and further details on the types of products developed by Tunstall are detailed in the following pages of this brochure.
Service transformation

Connected Healthcare services and solutions such as telecare and telehealth can enable more people to be supported at home, helping to delay or avoid the need for more costly interventions. However, to be most effective, such technologies need to be embedded into provision, and form part of mainstream service delivery.

Tunstall has a range of support services which can be combined to provide a structure for transforming healthcare provision, helping to integrate support and reduce future costs by shifting the focus to prevention and self-care using technology as an enabler. We work in collaboration with customers to understand their particular challenges and develop a strategy to address them, using Connected Healthcare solutions to underpin system redesign and culture change.

The approach is modular, meaning customers can choose support with specific areas or to partner with Tunstall for the whole service.

With years of experience working across the health, housing and social care landscape around the world, Tunstall is uniquely placed to help its customers redesign their services, maximising the potential of Connected Care and Connected Health to support the delivery of integrated, efficient care and support which improves outcomes for users. This experience, along with our significant ongoing investment in Innovation and Development, ensures that we have the expertise and resources to help our customers navigate the digital evolution.
The situation
Mrs A is hard of hearing, has diabetes, high cholesterol and arthritis and has had a series of TIs and several falls. She is also being assessed for vascular dementia. One fall when she was alone in the house resulted in a hospital admission, and her family is very concerned that she will fall again, particularly when trying to use the bathroom during the night. She lives with her son and daughter-in-law, and her daughter-in-law has cared for her for 16 years including prompting with personal care, washing, dressing, medication, meal preparation and cleaning. Because of her poor mobility, the likelihood of falling and her short term memory issues, her family very rarely leave her alone, which has a big impact on her daughter-in-law in particular.

The solution
A Lifeline unit has been installed along with a CareAssist pager. Mrs A’s daughter-in-law can carry the pager and it will alert her to events such as her mother-in-law falling when she is in a different area of the house. Mrs A wears an iVi pendant which automatically raises an alert on the CareAssist pager if it detects she has fallen. A bed sensor has also been installed which will raise an alert if Mrs A leaves her bed during the night and doesn’t return safely after a short time.

The outcome
Mrs A’s daughter-in-law and the family were clearly under strain and said that without their support Mrs A would have moved into a care home. Telecare gives them the reassurance that they will be alerted if Mrs A needs them, and allows them to spend time in other parts of the home without constantly checking and worrying. As the system can be diverted to raise an alert at the monitoring centre instead of the CareAssist the family can now spend a little time away from the home and feel reassured that they will be contacted in the case of an emergency.
Case study

Managing memory loss and taking medication

The situation
Lucy cares for her mum, Val, who has early onset dementia with rapid deterioration of memory. Val takes lots of medication, but due to her memory problems she was either overdosing or not taking her medication at the right time. Lucy was so worried that she took away the medication and delivered it herself at the correct time. Val also needed to visit the hospital weekly due to changes in her condition.

The solution
Val was provided with a medication dispenser linked to a Lifeline home unit which dispenses her tablets. The unit flashes and sounds an alert each time Val needs to take her medication. If Val doesn’t remove the medication, an alert is raised to Lucy or the monitoring centre to let them know.

The outcome
Since the medication dispenser was installed, Val’s condition has stabilised and she only needs monthly hospital visits. Lucy has now been able to go on holiday for the first time in many years, safe in the knowledge her mum’s medication is being monitored whilst she is away.

Carers for people with dementia save the UK over £11.6 billion a year
The situation
Among people living in care homes, hospital admissions for avoidable conditions are 30% higher for people with dementia. An estimated 30% of older people in hospital have dementia and they are often admitted as a result of avoidable conditions such as dehydration, urinary tract infections and complications as a result of long-term conditions. Once in hospital, people with dementia stay longer and have poorer outcomes than those without dementia.

The solution
The London Borough of Croydon and NHS South West London have been working together to pilot the use of the myclinic multi-user telehealth system in care homes. Following a review of the resident’s needs, the clinician will create an individual telehealth monitoring plan for each user. Care staff using the myclinic tablet will record the residents’ vital signs and complete their bespoke health questions each day. This information is then securely transmitted to a central triage monitoring centre. If a user’s readings are outside of the preset limits set for them in their care plan, markers are raised on the triage system and appropriate action can be quickly taken, enabling early intervention.

The outcome
The myclinic solution has proven to be an effective support system, helping to provide person-centred care and improving quality of life by detecting possible health issues at an early stage, helping to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions. Residents are relaxed and accepting of the system, and monitoring has also become another opportunity for social interaction between staff and residents and is valued by both parties. Staff report that using myclinic has helped them to better understand the residents’ health needs and has empowered them to help manage their care more proactively.

Patients with dementia have special needs when it comes to healthcare. They are often not able to tell the care staff that they are ill or able to explain why or how they feel unwell. Telehealth is a great way of picking up health and wellbeing issues at an early stage.

Brian Longman, Telecare and TeleHealth Lead, Croydon Care Solutions, London Borough of Croydon
Due to the wide variety of types of falls, some falls may not be detected. In the event of a fall, the service user should always be advised to try and press the help button on the iVi.

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### Solutions

#### Lifeline Smart Hub
The Lifeline Smart Hub is Tunstall’s first IP home unit, and represents a step change in the way telecare services can be delivered, making them faster, more efficient and more insightful. The Smart Hub retains the reliability of our analogue Lifeline units, but removes the restrictions of relying on an analogue connection and brings the many benefits of IP, such as remote management of units, Activities of Daily Living monitoring and data gathering and intelligence leading to better quality services.

#### CareAssist
CareAssist is an extremely easy to use, portable device that provides onsite carers with a means to receive instant alerts from a range of telecare sensors. This means that carers can be quickly made aware of any incidents allowing them to respond, but removes the need for them to continually observe the person they care for.

#### Flood detector
The flood detector will raise an alarm if sinks or baths overflow, or if a washing machine door is opened mid-cycle, protecting both people and property.

#### Carbon monoxide alarm
The carbon monoxide alarm provides an immediate alert when dangerous CO emissions have been detected due to a blocked flue or fault in a fuel burning appliance.

#### Smoke detector
Tunstall smoke detectors provide increased reassurance by raising an alarm call at the monitoring centre while also activating a local audible alarm, if they detect smoke.

#### Bed occupancy sensor
This specially designed pressure pad and provides an early warning by alerting that the user has left their bed and not returned within a pre-set time period. The sensor can also be programmed to switch on lights, helping people find their way to and from bed easily.

#### Lifeline Vi and MyAmie
The Lifeline Vi home unit receives alerts from telecare sensors placed around the home and automatically raises an alarm with a carer or monitoring centre. The MyAmie pendant can be worn on the wrist or around the neck and allows the user to call for help simply by pressing the red button.

#### iVi intelligent pendant
The iVi intelligent pendant is a small, lightweight device which allows the wearer to press a help button to generate an alarm call, and will also automatically generate a call for assistance if it detects a fall.*

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*Due to the wide variety of types of falls, some falls may not be detected. In the event of a fall, the service user should always be advised to try and press the help button on the iVi.
Solutions

Ambient temperature sensor

The ambient temperature sensor is designed to ensure a comfortable temperature within the living environment. Low and high temperature thresholds can be set and an alert raised if these are crossed for over five minutes.

Natural gas detector

The natural gas detector raises an alarm call the moment the leakage of gas is detected, allowing the appropriate corrective action to be taken. It is supplied complete with standard UK mains plug and a preconfigured universal sensor, and doesn’t need to be installed by a qualified electrician.

Property exit sensor (virtual)

The virtual property exit sensor combines a Fast PIR with a door usage sensor (universal sensor) to create a solution which can monitor a door, generating an alarm if a client leaves their home (during the monitoring period) and does not return within a set time. It can also detect if a main exit door has been left open.

Bogus caller/panic button

Fitted near the door, the discreet bogus caller button can be used to call for assistance at a 24 hour monitoring centre if a stranger requests entry into the home. Operators can advise the user, and all calls are recorded and can provide evidence admissible in court.

Enuresis sensor

Placed between the mattress and sheet, this sensor provides immediate warning on detection of moisture, allowing effective action to be taken. The sensor eliminates the need for carers to make physical checks during the night, promoting dignity and independence.

Medication dispenser

Automatically provides access to medication over a 28 day period, providing audio and visual alerts to the user and/or their carer each time medication should be taken, and raising an alert if the user fails to access their medicines.

Digital health

Tunstall offers a range of solutions to enable people, with assistance if required, to monitor their health condition at home. Vital signs and symptoms can be remotely monitored, and readings outside of parameters set for the patient will raise an alert with a clinician, enabling early intervention and avoiding further deterioration in health and the need for more complex care. Digital health monitoring can be particularly helpful for people with dementia who may not be able to communicate their symptoms.
BT has announced that it intends to complete the transition from an analogue telephony infrastructure throughout the UK to an IP (digital) network by 2025. The delivery of digital technology represents a huge opportunity to improve quality of life, making services faster, more efficient and more insightful.

Digital technology makes new models of service delivery achievable, with the power to;

- Empower and enable
- Safeguard and support
- Bring people closer together
- Give increased control over the way people live their lives

Tunstall has a range of resources available to help its customers navigate the digital transition, and can offer advice and support on managing the short-term impact as well as how to plan effectively for the future. Visit uk.tunstall.com/digital to find out more.
About Tunstall

Over the last sixty years, Tunstall has pioneered the use of technology to enable independent living, creating the Connected Healthcare industry as we know it today, and supporting more than five million people and their families across the world. Tunstall was the first to develop alarm systems for older people, and has continued to lead the market ever since, remaining at the forefront of developments such as telecare and telehealth, right up to the present day where we are harnessing the power of digital technology.

We blend British design and manufacturing with externally sourced innovation to create a cost effective portfolio of services, underpinned by our global experience of enhancing care in the home for people in more than fifty countries. As the digital opportunity accelerates the speed of change, we continue to work in partnership with our customers to develop more ground-breaking, life-changing solutions.

For further advice, please contact your Tunstall Account Manager or call us on 01977 660479.

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Enabling independent living