



Summery

Research Programme

A multi-perspective immersion into use and non-use of fall detection technologies in daily life – a qualitative design (AIDE-MOI)

Perspectives of community-dwelling older people, relatives and health professionals

Background

Safety and activity of community-dwelling older people may be endangered by the occurrence of a fall. 25% of persons 65 years of age and older living at home have had one or more falls per year. The negative consequences of falls are well-documented. In supporting a self-determined, active and safe life for as long as possible at home, the use of technology for fall detection and alerting is indicated. However, fall detection technologies or personal call systems are not widely-used among community-dwelling older people. Further stakeholders of this technology are relatives and health professionals. They play a supportive, caring and advisory role in the daily lives of older people. They reply in case of a fall alert or care for the person in the case of injury or mobility limitations resulting from a fall. Currently, a comprehensive and in-depth understanding regarding the use and non-use of fall detection technologies from the perspectives of these three relevant stakeholders is lacking.

Objectives

The aim of this study is to gain an in-depth and comprehensive understanding regarding the use and non-use of fall detection technologies from the perspective of community-dwelling older people, relatives and health professionals (ambulatory/community nurses and general practitioners).

Method

A qualitative explorative research design will be used. A convenience and snowball sampling will be applied. The sample size of the underlying study will be 30 persons per target sample: 30 community-dwelling older people, 30 health professionals (20 ambulant nurses and 10 general practitioners) and 30 relatives. Semi-structured focus groups interviews will be carried out for data collection. The digital recorded data of the focus group interviews will be transcribed verbatim along a transcription guideline. An inductive content analysis approach will be applied for coding and analysing the data.

Importance and Impact

The significance of technology in the health care setting is steadily increasing. It is significant for the society that health professionals, particularly nurses as the largest group of health professionals, tackle the challenge of demographic change, the relevance of the ambulatory and community care settings and the decrease of hospital stay durations. Solutions are necessary so that older people are enabled to live as long as possible in a self-determined, safe and active way in their familiar home environment. Certain technological solutions, such as fall detection technologies, could help increase the sense of security, help to promote confidence and assist in maintaining an active lifestyle and social inclusion. This could make an important contribution to the quality of life among community-dwelling older people and their relatives.

This research programme generates required knowledge for the field of nursing. The generated knowledge might indicate the competences of nurses in providing care, coaching and supporting autonomy for older people managing their health conditions with technologies (in this case with fall detection technologies). Moreover, in the future, competences of nurses will be increasingly required in the handling of health-related technologies, providing care for people using these technologies and providing care for people refusing the use of these technologies. Based on the findings, the nursing field might be enabled to better focus on patients' needs and on the development of its own role in supporting and advising older people in the context of technology use.