

Improving provision of GPS 'location' technologies and technical support for people with dementia and their family carers

Staying Safe

Recommendation 1

Improve and monitor the provision of GPS 'location' technologies to people with dementia and their families.

Recommendation 2

Walk with a person with dementia when assessing suitability of GPS use to identify any road safety issues or potential risks of busy roads and environments





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia 2020 Implementation Plan aims to make England, by 2020, the best country in the world for dementia care, support, research and awareness. A key objective is to enhance the quality of life for citizens with dementia living at home, which involves the police, as well as care services. Research at the University of Southampton shows that the use of GPS 'location' technologies enables a person with a dementia to get and out about independently and increases social contact. GPS 'location' technologies also provide potentially valuable data on a person's walking activities and whereabouts, which family carers and the police can use in an emergency.

GPS 'LOCATION' TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

Researchers at the University of Southampton have been talking to people with dementia and their family carers, as well as the police, about using GPS 'location' technologies for safer walking. We walked with a person with dementia around their local area to find out how they used their device. We have evidence that this technology enables a person with a dementia to get and out about independently. This increases social contact and sense of belonging for the person with dementia.



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