

The Evolving Role of Technology in Dementia Care

Supporting Caregivers and Enhancing Safety

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Why This Matters

Safety is at the heart of quality dementia care. As challenges grow, technology can act as both a shield and a bridge—protecting individuals living with dementia while empowering caregivers to respond confidently, efficiently, and compassionately.

How Technology Enhances Safety

- **Tracking Tools & Safety Devices:** GPS wearables, door sensors, and in-home monitors help prevent wandering and reduce risk
- **Sensor-Based Alerts:** Detect falls, missed routines, or changes in behaviour—helping care teams act early
- **Voice AI & Smart Reminders:** Support memory, medication adherence, and safe routines for individuals with dementia
- **Multilingual Tools:** Reduce misunderstanding and increase emotional and physical safety across cultures

Emotional & Practical Returns ('The RONS')

- **ROSa:** Return on Safety — keeping both care recipients and workers safe
- **ROE:** Return on Emotions — reducing stress and fear in high-risk situations
- **ROQL:** Return on Quality of Life — safe environments are empowering environments
- **ROT:** Return on Time/Technology — safer, smarter workflows free up time for care
- **ROI:** Return on Investment — proactive safety tech reduces emergencies and costs
- **Ro_____:** Return on _____

Practical Tips for Home Care and Long-Term Care Settings

For Home Care:

- Use geo-fencing tools to receive alerts if a person wanders beyond safe zones
- Try voice-controlled devices to reduce fall risk by eliminating the need to walk to a switch or phone

For Long-Term Care (LTC):

- Install non-intrusive motion sensors to monitor movement patterns and detect changes in routine
- Leverage digital dashboards or apps to flag safety concerns across shifts and streamline handoffs

Common Safety Barriers

- Tech resistance due to fear or unfamiliarity
- Inadequate training in safety-focused tools
- Language mismatches that compromise clarity
- Limited resources for implementation and maintenance

Practical Tips for Safer Care

1. Start small: Introduce one tool that improves safety for both staff and residents
2. Co-learn with your team: Build safety knowledge together
3. Centre the person and the context: Technology should match real-life safety needs
4. Ask: How does this improve emotional and physical safety?

Helpful Resources

- AGE-WELL Network: <https://www.agewell-nce.ca>
- CABHI (Baycrest): <https://www.cabhi.com>
- Healthcare Excellence Canada: <https://www.healthcareexcellence.ca>
- WeCanBe: <https://www.wecanbe.ca>

Stay Connected

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