Keynote 3: eHealth in Long-Term Care – state-of-the-art in research & innovation

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Abstract

Worldwide, health care systems are changing to ensure quality care for the aging society. In The Netherlands, in 2015, the Long-Term Care Act, the Social Support Act and the Youth Act were introduced with the goal to improve the quality of the care provided. Furthermore, the acts were introduced to promote an integrated approach and to keep healthcare available and affordable with an increasing role of the social network and volunteers in long-term care. Care organizations that provide long-term care for the most vulnerable in the Dutch society face difficulties due to the decreasing budgets and increasing care intensity for people with chronic illnesses as dementia. Care organizations need to adapt to this changing landscape and innovate by organizing care and operational processes more efficiently and effectively. eHealth technologies are introduced and implemented to support self-care and reduce care burden, as life-style monitoring, community digital platforms, and social robotics. In this talk, I will discuss the changing long-term care landscape from a Dutch perspective, and the role eHealth can play to support clients and care professionals. Practical and applied research is presented from National and European projects, and the pros and cons of a variety of supportive eHealth solutions will be discussed.

Introduction

Dr. Henk Herman Nap has a MSc in Cognitive Ergonomics and a PhD in Gerontechnology. He currently works at Vilans as an expert senior researcher on innovation in eHealth and health policy and at the Technische Universiteit Eindhoven as a senior researcher on eHealth. He is an associate editor of Gerontechnology Journal and Industry Liaison of the Gerontoludic Society. He worked in academics, Smart Homes, and as a researcher and coordinator of many European AAL, H2020 and Framework projects. We should design (health) technologies that are meaningful, accessible, and non-stigmatising.