

2014 Commissioned Research on Dementia Care

Chief Investigator: Professor Assumpta Ryan, Ulster University

Title of research project: A feasibility study of facilitated reminiscence for people with dementia

Abstract:

Research Question: What effect does individual specific reminiscence activity facilitated through the use of bespoke software have on people with dementia and their family carers?

Study Design: The aim of this feasibility study is to investigate the effects of individual specific reminiscence activity facilitated through the use of bespoke software among people with dementia and their family carers. The objectives are 1) to identify and refine the specification for the software (MemoryLane) and its application to tablet devices, 2) to test the usability of the revised system, 3) to examine the impact of facilitated reminiscence activity on the person with dementia and their family carer using a range of outcome measures, 4) to explore users' views on MemoryLane, 5) to enhance independence and quality of life and 6) to incorporate a health economic component which will inform the design of a potential future cost-effectiveness analysis from a societal perspective alongside an RCT.

Methodology: The research will have both quantitative and qualitative components in three phases. Phase 1 will identify and refine the specification for the MemoryLane software. Refinement of the specification of the MemoryLane software will aid in the deliverance of functional mobile software. No unforeseen difficulties are expected during this phase although it is anticipated that the new software will be renamed to reflect its modernisation. In Phase 2, the refined application will be rolled out across the study site, with testing pre-implementation, and comparison of outcomes at specified time points after implementation. Phase 3 will consist of one-to-one interviews with a sample of participants comprising people with dementia and their carers.