
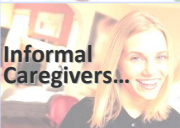



The Care Link Pilot Project...

Care Link
Independent Living Solutions

Findings...

 Clients...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reduced levels of anxiety •Increased sense of security •Reduced concerns about physical health •Lower cost (compared to long term care or nursing home placement) •Delayed need for long term care or nursing home placement
 Informal Caregivers...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Less anxious •More aware of senior's patterns and care needs •Provided sense of comfort •Freer to be active in their own lives
 Social Services...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cost avoidance for Dept. of Social Development (less expensive compared to nursing home placement and/or interim waits in hospital)

Purpose

The purpose of the Care Link Pilot project was to explore the extent to which Care Link technology can support informal caregivers so that NB seniors remain in their homes in a safe and comfortable way.

Research Goal

To determine...
 ... whether **quality of life** is improved
 ... whether **families/caregivers feel more engaged** with their loved one
 ... whether **caregivers feel more supported** in their role
 ... whether there may be **cost savings**



Motion detectors, cameras, bed and door sensors, and panic bracelet/pendant/buttons are installed in client's home.

Informal caregivers (family members) use live video streaming, text and email alerts, and logging system to monitor senior's daily activity.

"Care Link Advantage cannot prevent your loved one from having an emergency situation, but it can notify you right away so you can act on it immediately. Care Link Advantage cannot prevent your loved one from aging, but it can give you vital information (such as eating and sleeping patterns/habits) as they age, so that you can monitor their health and take preventive action to head off and prevent many unnecessary complications that can lead to deteriorating health and hospitalization."

www.carelinkadvantage.ca

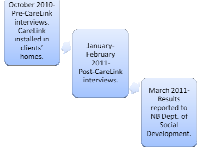
Research Group



Study Design and Methods

15 participating NB seniors from York and Carleton counties, with varying numbers of informal caregivers each.

Qualitative	Quantitative and Mixed Method
Interviewed seniors and their caregivers to determine the impact that Care Link technology had on their quality of life, relationships, and perceived level of support.	Cost analysis. Impact on social services accessed by client. Impact on ability for senior to remain at home.



Caregiver Feedback

"It has eased my worries, I can look on the computer instead of going over to Dad's."
 "It is quite comforting knowing I don't have to be watching her all the time."
 "By 8am, if no meds are taken my home phone and cell phone ring."
 "I have it set to call me if he is out of bed more than 40 minutes between 10pm and 6am..."
 "I am using the computer to check on [my mom] visually mostly at night, this has saved me many trips [to her house]."
 "I have less stress, I was always running back and forth to the house to check on Dad. One night recently we got home late... If I had gone over to check on him I would have woken him up, now I can check on the computer."

Client Feedback

"I felt more comfortable and reassured that someone could check on me and make sure I was okay."
 "I really feel very safe. I feel much safer having this in place than I did before."
 "I feel a lot safer knowing that my daughter would be able to check on me at any time... it is a good safety measure."
 "It gives me a feeling if anything happens in my house, the cameras will pick it up, there are sensors and they have called (my son), they called one night to let him know I was up."
 "It's good to know I can push that button in the bedroom. They don't call me, they phone (my son) wherever he is..."

Recommendations...

- 1 Add Care Link Advantage to the menu of services offered by the Dept. of Social Development for those eligible for long-term care services.
- 2 Complete a more in-depth financial analysis to strengthen conclusions of cost savings and cost avoidance.
- 3 Maintain relationship and consider partnering with Care Link to...
 ...support and engage with caregivers regarding system capability.
 ...develop a communications strategy.
- 4 Ensure ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of Care Link service.



ATLANTIC INSTITUTE ON AGING
 INSTITUT ATLANTIQUE SUR LE VIEILLISSEMENT

www.aginginstitute.ca

About Us: The Atlantic Institute on Aging is a not-for-profit organization committed to making deep change in the field of elder care by conducting and supporting research, creating and transferring knowledge, and facilitating relationships between academic institutions, service providers, government, and communities.

Our Vision: The long term vision of the Institute is to develop and implement a new philosophy of aging that promotes aging as a time for sharing wisdom. This new philosophy is built on four core values; inclusion, appreciation, respect, and self esteem. These values are forward looking and they describe a future where the aging population is treated and understood as a national treasure that makes valuable contributions to society.

- Five Areas of Aging and Opportunities for Applied Research...**
- Wellbeing... a holistic understanding and approach
 - Education... life long learning and intergenerational interaction
 - Financial Recognition...reconceptualizing pension and old age security
 - Employer Support... the workforce and their role in supporting aging kin
 - Long Term Care...ensuring a high quality of life for long term care clients

Barbara Burnett
 Executive Director / Directrice générale
 Atlantic Institute on Aging / Institut atlantique sur le vieillissement
 100 Sunset Drive / 100, promenade Sunset
 Fredericton, NB E3A 1A3
 Tel: 506 444 3337
 Cell: 506 440 1440

Quickfacts: caregivers

- 27.8% of employed Canadians have responsibility for the care of elderly dependents¹
- The average caregiver provides approximately 22 hours of care per week²
- It is estimated that in 2009 unpaid caregivers made a \$25 billion dollar imputed economic contribution to Canadian society³

Pilot Project sponsored by... the Government of New Brunswick Department of Social Development



bburnett@aginginstitute.ca