

1 Smart Screens

What does it do?



Smart screens are internet-enabled touchscreen devices with a built-in speaker and voice assistant. Voice assistants can talk to the user (e.g., to read out notifications or reminders) and receive verbal instructions. Smart screens usually offer a range of functions and are highly customisable with downloadable programmes ("apps" or "skills"). Some smart screens can be used as [#IoT](#) hubs [see 78].

What can it be used for?

#Reminder #Instructor Carers can programme regular or one-off reminders and prompts (e.g. to drink regularly) on the smart screen via a smartphone app or online portal. These reminders or prompts are then read aloud or text on the screen at the pre-set time. Some apps or skills can guide PwD through an activity (e.g., taking their pills). Some smart screens can be set to require PwD to acknowledge the reminder, either by pressing a button on the screen or by acknowledging it verbally.

#DementiaClock Smart screens can display the time, date, day and/or time of day. The time of day is usually accompanied by a picture (e.g., the sun for daytime, moon for night-time). Dementia clocks can help PwD to remain orientated by letting them know what time of day it is.

#Teleconsultations Smart screens can be used for video calling. Callers can call the device via a smartphone app or online platform. Some healthcare professionals offer video consultations which PwD can attend via the smart screen. Smart screens can be set to "auto-answer". This means that PwD do not have to interact with the device to answer the call.

#Entertainment #Stimulation Smart screens can play audio books, music, and stimulating or relaxing sounds and images. Devices can be populated with PwD's photos and videos from their past. Carers can record short stories or add captions to go along with the photos and videos. Looking at the photos and listening to the recorded stories and music can be entertaining and stimulating and help PwD reminisce about their life. Voice assistants can tell jokes and stories. PwD can initiate this with a voice command or carers can activate the playback via smartphone app. Routines can be set up on the smart screen to prompt the PwD e.g., to continue their audio book or listen to music. Programmes are currently in development to allow users to have natural conversations with the voice assistant.

#Companionship Via smartphone app or online portal, carers, family members and friends can send PwD messages, videos, and pictures to their smart screen. This can help to keep them informed and socially connected.

#AccessingInformation Users can ask smart screens for all kinds of information. This can include the time, weather or news or caring advice and information on dementia.

Comment	Rating	Author	Date
My friend cannot use technology without help these days and finds it difficult to understand anything new. While these technologies might be useful for someone in the early stages of dementia I think they may be difficult to introduce when someone is diagnosed at the moderate stage	3	Violet Tiger	Aug 31, 2020, 01:45 PM
The person I care for no longer likes technology preferring books and does not interact well with a virtual presence	4	Green Dog 2	Aug 31, 2020, 11:27 AM
I like the idea of this, but think it would possibly only be useful for someone in the early stages of dementia. I believe the unit would need to be controlled by a family member/carer. Some older people do not like technology, so ease of use would be extremely important.	4	Red Dog 2	Aug 27, 2020, 11:09 AM
I agree that this would be very useful if the person with dementia has been used to dealing with IT, however I have found that my Mum has no inclination towards electronic devices and point-blank refuses to use a smart phone, tablet or computer.	3	Burgundy Cat	Aug 24, 2020, 04:27 PM
Agree that probably best for early stages - very much depends on how well tailored it is, to each user's needs.	3	Green Cat 1	Aug 12, 2020, 11:48 AM
How useful this is depends on the user's existing comfort with a smart phone. Many of the people I work with have had various devices set up by their families and know that the device is doing something but they're not quite sure what. E.g trying to turn the TV on with phone, or being upset because a face is looking at them and they're not sure who it is or why they're there. I have a client who used to use WhatsApp regularly but now sees there are messages waiting and doesn't know how to react which makes her panic. I think this would be more useful for very early stages where someone is able to manage their condition, and for family communications.	3	Lavender Loris	Jul 18, 2020, 05:16 PM
Need to be easy simple technology. Elderly people are not very 'IT' experienced usually and those with dementia would have added problems	4	Blue Dog 2	Jul 02, 2020, 05:33 PM
Smart screens can be very beneficial in the earlier stages of dementia. I used to telephone mum to ensure she had taken her tablets so at this stage a voice prompt could have been sufficient. Using the screens for reminiscence at early - mid stage would also seem beneficial as it requires the person living with dementia to be interactive and it could also be a shared experience with friends/family. The ability to auto connect would also be useful if the person has forgotten how to use the item but , particularly in the later stages, a disembodied voice may cause distress.	4	Purple Cat	Jun 30, 2020, 03:50 PM
This would benefit folk who grew up using technology or who had been around technology quite a lot. It's certainly a useful technology for the early stages of dementia	3	Blue Dog 1	Jun 22, 2020, 01:34 PM

however the benefit of the technology would most likely be derived by the person with dementia.. the carer wouldn't get much reassurance the person with dementia had actually taken their pills (for example), thus it would not remove the stress/ worry from that small element of daily activity.			
This seems like a really useful thing, particularly for people who are in the earlier stages of dementia	5	Green Dog 1	Jun 22, 2020, 11:49 AM