

Research Proposal Form

MSc Public Health and Social Care in Practice Dissertation (CHS7004)

Fill in this form after discussions with your tutor.

The information will be formally submitted to your supervisor for approval.

Student Name	Student ID
NENCY RAMESHBHAI ABHANGI	2222082

**Please adapt the text boxes accordingly*

Proposed Research Topic: Telemedicine and its role in improving access to neurological care for elderly people in rural communities.

Research question: How does telemedicine improve access to hemiplegic care for elderly people in rural communities?

Research methodology: The methodological approach that would be implemented in the completion of this study is the qualitative research approach. This approach is mainly described as a scientific approach to address the activities that are present in society (Aspers and Corte, 2019). A more specific approach that could be implemented within the completion of this research, is the application of the primary qualitative research. The data would be collected through the conducting interviews of 6 participants. 3 of these participants for the interview would be from the UK, and the rest 3 of these participants would be from India. The reason for the selection of this method of data collection for this research is that it would be helpful for this research to gain the necessary insight as to how effective different telehealth technologies such as video conferences are for elderly people living in rural areas. Therefore, the participants that would be selected for this study would be elderly people (65 to 85 years) and are living in rural areas. The analysis of the results of this interview would be conducted through qualitative thematic analysis method.

A brief overview (14-20 sentences, including 5 references)

Please provide a **brief overview** of the topic you intend to research in a lay public language, that is for a non-scientific audience:

Telemedicine, a revolutionary approach to healthcare, plays a critical role in improving access to neurological care for older adults living in remote communities of rural field (Wechsler LR et al., 2013). It uses digital technology for remote consultations, eliminating the need for arduous travel to distant

medical facilities (Wiborg, A et al, 2003) This not only saves time but also allows the elderly to receive quick support during nervous episodes. Telemedicine provides consistent ongoing care essential for the management of chronic neurological diseases, thereby reducing the stress and inconvenience associated with travel (Sarsak, H.I. et al, 2020).

Additionally, it provides a cost-effective alternative as it minimizes costs associated with travel, accommodation and absence from work (Walsh, L et al, 2009). Access to specialist neurologists has also increased significantly, providing older people with a variety of treatment options. Telemedicine promotes the independence of elderly patients by allowing them to take control of their health. In summary, telemedicine is a valuable tool to address health care disparities faced by older rural populations, thereby improving their quality of life and overall health (Jones, E et al, 2023). The rationale for the selection of Hemiplegia care in the completion of this research is that this would help the study to explore the boundaries of the research and how the application of telehealth technologies and approaches could be effective in addressing issues of extreme conditions and approaches. Moreover, the selection of rural areas would also help in understanding the reach of implementing these approaches in the process as well.

Aim (a broad statement capturing the overall purpose of this research)

Please provide the aim of the topic you intend to research:

The aim of this study is to explore the effectiveness of application of telehealth technologies and approaches in caring for hemiplegic patients with extreme conditions and in rural areas with little to no access to care.

Objectives (outline 3-5 using bullet points)

Please provide the objectives of the intended research:

- 1) To investigate the role of telemedicine to improve the access of care for the hemiplegic elderly peoples in rural communities.
- 2) To provide a health promotional tool to support local authorities who guide elderly people who are living with hemiplegia concerning telemedicine.
- 3) To provide recommendation to public health practitioners to promote telecare to benefit elderly who experience hemiplegia and the wider rural population.

Ethical considerations (indicate ethical issues that are relevant to your research)

*Collecting primary data from human participants requires you to address these issues.
Using primary data sources still requires how you will address these issues.*

I will submit my research proposal and the UWTSD ethics form to my supervisor to receive ethical approval. Yes

I will develop a research information letter and consent form to be handed to each participant. Yes

Voluntary informed Consent will be asked of each participant: Yes

I will ensure participants will not be subjected to coercion, intimidation, and undue influence to participate in this research. Yes

I will ensure participants will be informed they have the right to withdraw and their data from this research. Yes

I will ensure to store the obtained signed consent forms securely and anonymously. Yes

I will ensure the collected data will be protected and stored securely and deleted after ending this study program. Yes

I confirm that I have discussed and agreed every section of this form with my supervisor and will only conduct my research in line with what has been agreed in this document

Signature...NENCY R. ABHANGI

Date: 30th October 2023

Supervisor:

Signature.....Dr Diola Bijlhout.....

Date:..... 30th October 2023

Appendix:

A Participant research information form

B Consent form

C List of Questions / Interview schedule

Interview Questions

Q1 Can you please explain how your life has been after having the stroke?

Q2 What do you know about telecare?

Q3 Have you ever experienced telecare at any time during or after your treatments?

Q3a. If no: Would having access to telecare be something you would want to have and explain why?

Q4 How was your experience using different telecare technologies such as video calling in helping you to deal with your condition?

Q5 Were you comfortable in using different telecare technologies for getting support for your condition?

Q6 How was the support provided to you through these telecare technologies during your session

Reference List add here below

- 1)** Wechsler, L.R., Tsao, J.W., Levine, S.R., Swain-Eng, R.J., Adams, R.J., Demaerschalk, B.M., Hess, D.C., Moro, E., Schwamm, L.H., Steffensen, S. and Stern, B.J., 2013. Teleneurology applications: report of the Telemedicine Work Group of the American Academy of Neurology. *Neurology*, 80(7), pp.670-676.
- 2)** Sarsak, H.I., 2020. Telerehabilitation services: A successful paradigm for occupational therapy clinical services. *International Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Journal*, 5(2), pp.93-98.
- 3)** Wiborg, A. and Widder, B., 2003. Teleneurology to improve stroke care in rural areas: the Telemedicine in Stroke in Swabia (TESS) Project. *Stroke*, 34(12), pp.2951-2956.
- 4)** Taylor, D.M., Cameron, J.I., Walsh, L., McEwen, S., Kagan, A., Streiner, D.L. and Huijbregts, M.P., 2009. Exploring the feasibility of videoconference delivery of a self-management program to rural participants with stroke. *Telemedicine and e-Health*, 15(7), pp.646-654.
- 5)** Sharrief, A.Z., Guzik, A.K., Jones, E., Okpala, M., Love, M.F., Ranasinghe, T.I.J. and Bushnell, C., 2023. Telehealth trials to address health equity in stroke survivors. *Stroke*, 54(2), pp.396-406.



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