

Case study 1: Tool 3

Ethics of using assistive technology

This tool highlights the ethical issues of using assistive technology. You can use it to consider when assistive technology would be beneficial for someone, and to reflect on the benefits and drawbacks of it more generally.

Autonomy – the ability of an individual to make choices AT can drastically promote or restrict autonomy.

Beneficence – the principle of working for the benefit of the individual AT has the potential to benefit people.

Non-maleficence – the principle of doing no harm
While AT can benefit an individual, it also has the potential to expose people to risk. A balance must be achieved between ensuring safety and invading privacy. The potentially stigmatising effect of telecare should be recognised and minimised.

Justice – the moral obligation to act on a fair adjudication between conflicting claims In the interests of justice, resources for telecare services should be allocated so as to balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider community.

What are the ethical issues about using assistive technology (AT) to support carers?

This tool is based on [SCIE's At a glance 24: Ethical issues in the use of telecare](#)