

Nursing Robots

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1) The problems it tries to adress and to what extent it does

Problems	Solutions induced by nursing robots
<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Make up for the shortage of nurses to cope with an ageing population→ Reduce the cognitive and physical workload of nurses→ Reduce costs, facility waste and improve patient care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Perform repetitive tasks, assist with patient transfers→ Be useful for continuous patient monitoring
<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Improve automomy of sick or elderly people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Remind patients when to eat, drink or take medication, exercise or attend an appointment→ Help patients with everyday tasks cooking, eating

3) Other usages or problems

Other usages

- Teleconsultation with doctors and nurses
- Keeps patients connected at their relatives

Problems

- The nursing robots cannot replace the medical expertise of nurses, and the human presence provided by nurses. This raises questions about patient dignity and happiness.
- With the surveillance equipment and without regulations , the nursing robots could lead to violation of patients', their relatives and nurses' privacy.
- The physical safety and security of patients, their relatives and nurses must be guaranteed to avoid the injuries due to robot use.
- Robot can be hacked. So, the security of the system must be guaranteed to the security of users.

4) The scenario of the ADEME --> « Pari Réparateur »

The nursing robots is rooted in the « Pari Réparateur » Scenario.

Trust is placed in robots to support nurses and reduce the workload that is increasing due to the lack of human resources. They also make it possible, thanks to technology, to replace patient assistance tasks and thus increase patient autonomy.

However, a number of questions remain:

- What about the human presence that nurses provide for patients ?
- If these robots are "conclusive" for administrations, wouldn't this be a way of further reducing the human workforce ?
- In the same way, wouldn't this be a « fig leaf » for the real problem (i.e. the lack of resources in care centers) ?