

# **Granny and the Robots**

**Ethical Issues in robot care for the elderly**

# Introduction

- Introduction
- Areas of Application
- Ethical Issues
- Conclusions

# Areas of Application

1. Assistance
2. Monitoring
3. Companionship

# Measures of Ethics

- Human Rights
  - Physical welfare
  - Psychological welfare
- Human Values

# Human Values in Robotics

1. Human welfare
2. Ownership and property
3. Privacy
4. Freedom from bias
5. Universal usability
6. Trust
7. Autonomy
8. Informed consent
9. Accountability
10. Identity
11. Calmness
12. Environmental Sustainability

# Ethical Issues

1. Reduction of human contact
2. Objectification
3. Privacy
4. Personal Liberty
5. Deception
6. Control

# 1. Social Interaction

- Assistive Robots
  - Remove opportunities
- Increased risks of disease
  - Stress
  - Dementia
  - Alzheimer's
- Remote Monitoring
  - Removes personal contact
- Robot Companions
  - Improvement in interaction?

## 2. Objectification

- Who do the robots help?
- External locus of control
- Improved care
  - Dignity
- Independence



# 3. Privacy

- Constant monitoring
- Respecting privacy
  - Knocking
- Memory impairment
- Holding data
- Who consents?

# 4. Personal Liberty

- Reduction in autonomy
  - Imprisonment
- Smart homes

# 5. Deception & Infatilisatation

- Can robots ever imitate relationships?
  - All robotic interactions are deceptions
- Encourages second childhood
- A talking point

# 6. Control

- How much control should a person have over a robot?
  - Mental Capabilities
  - Robotic law #1 and #2
- Accountability

# Conclusions

- Mental & Physical Benefits
- Not the robots but the way they are used
- Quality of life over quality of care
- Restrictions of time?
- Guidelines and laws
- Developer issues