Reviewer's report

Title: Connecting the person with dementia and family: A feasibility study of a telepresence robot

Version: 2 Date: 5 December 2013

Reviewer: Claire Morrisby

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions
You have used per cent symbol instead of words and numbers instead of words throughout.
Be consistent in your use of terminology throughout, residential care/care environments/nursing home care/long term care settings.
20. Page 12 2nd paragraph. Visual integration is a specific term describing the individuals’ ability to perceive visual information, as this appears to be a different concept consider a different term.

Discretionary revisions
1. Page 1 1st paragraph. Please include a sentence to provide some context or background as to why this study is required (abstract background)
2. Page 2 1st paragraph. Communications between who?
3. Page 4 2nd paragraph. Capitalisation of telepresence
4. Page 4 2nd paragraph. 'Nursing home care': explain term, is this residential or in the persons' own home?
5. Page 4 2nd paragraph. Context of Giraff testing requires explanation
7. Page 5 1st paragraph. Motors that can be controlled via a computer
8. Page 6 1st paragraph. Use their computer (not home)
10. Page 6 1st paragraph. To which project conducted outside of Europe are you referring? The current project or ExCITE? Please rephrase the sentence to limit the use of the word project and to improve clarity.
11. Page 6 2nd paragraph. In terms of what? Cost; effectiveness in achieving the outcome, maintenance required?
12. Page 7 2nd paragraph. How was this determined?
13. Page 7 2nd paragraph. Were there any other participant characteristics that would have impacted on their ability to participate in the trial e.g. hearing loss or co-morbidities?
14. Page 7 2nd paragraph. Verbal conversation and comprehension?
15. Page 10 2nd paragraph. How was the checking of theme credibility done?
16. Page 11 1st paragraph. Interrupted- consider word choice, this does not make your method clear.
17. Page 11 2nd paragraph. How were the call lengths standardised? You have previously stated that the calls were 15-60min long.
18. Page 11 3rd paragraph. How was this measured, were there degrees of alertness?
19. Page 12 1st paragraph. Was the software able to automatically track eye contact or was it manually coded, if so by whom and what agreement was there?
21. Page 13 1st paragraph. "This was of particular importance for participants" In the context of this statement would a quote from a family member be more appropriate?
22. Page 17 1st paragraph. "The duration of each call was standardised into five segments (each reflecting a given 20% of the call)" this should be incorporated into methods
23. Page 19 1st paragraph. "Engagement in the conversation was also enhanced when residents and family members were able to comment on what they could see or show each other via the robot’s video screen." While you described the number of instances an object was shown on the screen, the level of engagement was not clearly demonstrated in the results.
24. page 21 3rd paragraph. "case study approach" whereas mixed-methods was previously stated.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests