

We suggest you consider the following questions before buying any assistive technology. If you are in any doubt about what technology might help meet your needs, you can contact your council or visit www.asksara.org.uk

You can download and print this checklist at www.carechoices.co.uk/checklists

Suitability

- Does the equipment support your specific needs?
- Are you willing to use it?
- Will it fit into your everyday life and routine?
- Have you tried a demo of the equipment?
- Do you understand what the equipment is for?
- Do you need to take it with you when you leave the house? Is it transportable?
- Does the equipment have any limitations that would make it unsuitable for you?
- Will it work alongside any assistive technology you already have?

Usability

- Does the equipment need a plug socket, and could its wire cause a trip hazard?
- Is a simpler piece of equipment available, e.g. a pill case rather than an automated pill dispenser?
- Is it easy-to-use? Can you read/hear it clearly and are any buttons big enough for you?
- Are you able to use it? Are there any aspects you don't understand?

- Is it portable?
- Will it need to be installed by a professional?
- Can the retailer provide you with training in using the equipment?

Reliability

- Can you speak to someone who already uses it?
- Have you read reviews of the particular piece of equipment you are looking at? Consider these before making your purchase.
- Is it durable? If you might drop it, is it likely to break?
- Does it require batteries? Find out how often they will need changing and whether the equipment will remind you to do this.
- Will it work if you have pets or live with other people, e.g. could someone else set off a sensor alarm by accident?

Cost

- Are there alternative solutions that might be free of charge?
- Will you need to pay a monthly charge?
- Do you know how much it costs?

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