

Using Technology to Assist in Care: Now and in the Future

One way to meet the demand of care needs is through emerging technologies that can improve the aging experience. An international coalition has been formed to assist in creating a strategy to better prepare for the Age Wave that is predicted to hit our country as the first Boomers are turning 60 now. New technology solutions offer great promise to improve quality of care while reducing healthcare costs.

The Center for Aging Services Technologies (CAST) is leading the charge to expedite the development, evaluation and adoption of emerging technologies that can improve the aging experience.

CAST is an international coalition of more than 400 technology companies, aging services organizations, research universities, and government representatives. CAST believes that in order to meet the looming age wave that we need a national strategic plan to prepare for the aging of our population that is comprised of leaders from industry, government, health care, research, and consumer advocacy.

New technology solutions offer great promise to improve quality of care while reducing healthcare costs. Technology already has transformed our lives—from email to MP3s and from online shopping to cell phones. CAST believes that perhaps the time has come for technology to transform the experience of aging.

A start is the personal emergency response units, which do bring peace of mind to those who are far from loved ones who may be at the very beginning of the aging process, or who are living alone after the death of a spouse or partner.

And CAST reports that exciting new technologies coming in the next 5-10 years offer the potential to dramatically improve the quality of care we can provide.

To watch a video and see what the future may look like, click here to see **A Vision Video for Aging and Technology**. This video will give you a glimpse, through the eyes of one family, of what the future of aging could look like with help from developing technologies that are possible, practical and affordable.

http://www.agingtech.org/imagine_video.aspx

To access CAST or to get more information:

<http://www.agingtech.org/index.aspx>

On the other hand, if we make only marginal gains in the battle against dementia, those benefits could have tremendous consequences. Says Dychtwald: "If we could just postpone this horrible disease by five years, half the nursing home beds in the country would empty."