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## Your Retirement Living Connection

[Home](#) > [Senior Living](#) > [Independent Living](#) > Independent living style could be maintained, even for the forgetful

### Independent living style could be maintained, even for the forgetful

Written by Francis Ma  
Monday, 31 August 2009 18:04

Scientists from the University of Granada say that a new technology could help seniors maintain their [independent living](#) situations even as they become forgetful or suffer from memory decline.

By putting sensors throughout one's home, the research team says they've been able to create an environment that offers helpful reminders in case someone is about to forget to take their medication or leave the house without their keys.

The UGR scientists say that it works by incorporating RFID tags, which emit low-level radio frequencies, into common household objects like keys, bottles and other items. A software system then keeps track of where the senior is in relation to those objects, utilizing artificial intelligence algorithms to offer suggestions to users. No cameras or other recording devices are used.



"The system does not modify the life of the users, but does positively modify that of the people who look after them," said lead researcher Maria Ros Izquierdo. It can also be used by those who may not yet require admission to an [assisted living](#) facility but do need some assistance to continue to live independently, the team noted.

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### Technology could reduce loneliness in retirement living communities

Friday, August 21, 2009

[Retirement living](#) can occasionally lead to isolation for older persons who aren't as mobile as they used to be, and some engineers say that robotic companions may be one answer to reduce loneliness.

The Royal Academy of Engineering says that along with the development of driverless automobiles, the aging population may benefit from autonomous creations that resemble pets, but that don't require the same care.

"We expect to see a new generation of autonomous systems that will become tools that are in some respects almost like people; but will also pose some of the same ethical and management issues as people do," noted Professor Will Stewart.

[Read more...](#)

### Elderly motorists can have driving skills checked in independent living schemes

Monday, August 10, 2009

A year-old plan in Norwich could be the model for helping older persons determine whether their driving skills are strong enough to remain behind the wheel.

Motorists can have confidential checks of their abilities under the Guidance for Older Drivers scheme, with general practitioners offering tests of physical capabilities such as vision, according to the Norwich Evening News.

"I think in Norfolk there will be a higher proportion of elderly drivers than in other parts of

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- [Library Home](#)
- [Health and Wellness](#)
- [Entertainment and Hobbies](#)
- [Family and Personal Care](#)
- [Finances and Work](#)
- [Learning and Technology](#)
- [Senior Living](#)
  - [Retirement Living](#)
  - [Independent Living](#)
  - [Active Lifestyle](#)
  - [Assisted Living](#)
  - [Skilled Nursing](#)
  - [CCRC Continuing Care Retirement Communities](#)
  - [Rehabilitation Care](#)
  - [Congregate Living](#)
  - [Alzheimer's Care](#)
  - [Hospice Care](#)
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