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Open sesame: Exploring the 'usability' of hospital food and beverage packaging for the over 65s

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Abstract

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This PhD uses an ergonomics framework to consider the person-package interaction within the system of hospital food service delivery. This sociotechnical system has the input of ill health and the output goal of recovery and improved health for the patient. The research focuses on the physical capacity of the person and how this impacts on the interaction with the food and beverage package. This is done by measuring the time taken for well elderly people (independently community living aged over 65 years) to open hospital food and beverage items; measurement of grip, pinch strength and dexterity; as well as reviewing the environmental effect of being in a semi-recumbent hospital bed posture on these physical abilities. Vision is not explicitly explored and cognition will not be measured as part of the human-package interface within this PhD.