#### **Project 2**

# Improving communication between MND patients and their caregivers.

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...unable to move your legs...
...unable to lift your arms...

...can't move your tongue...

### Motor neuron disease

Degeneration of motor neurons.

Progressive disease.

Can affect at any age.

Most likely after the age of 40.

### Motor neuron disease

Non curable

Glutamate poisoning

ALS is the most extreme case of an MND.



# Challenges:

#### **Patients**

Difficult to do day to day tasks.

Communication hinders.

Patience level starts to decrease.

# Challenges: Caregivers

Understanding speech.

New ways in order to communicate.

Has to adapt if the caregiver changes.

# My role

Bridge the communication gap through visual communication.

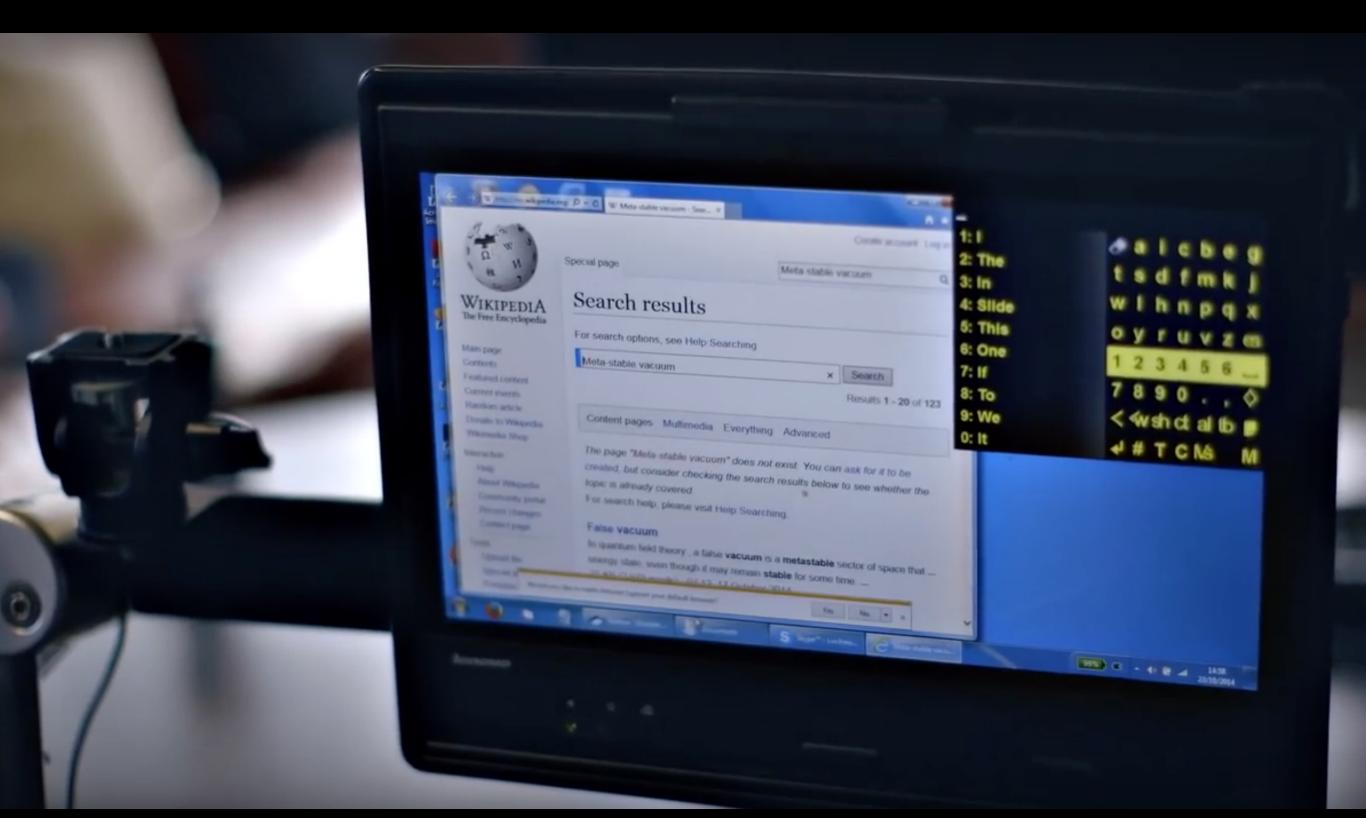
Study and categorise needs.

Create visual aids (iconography).

# Works done so far in the assistive devices.



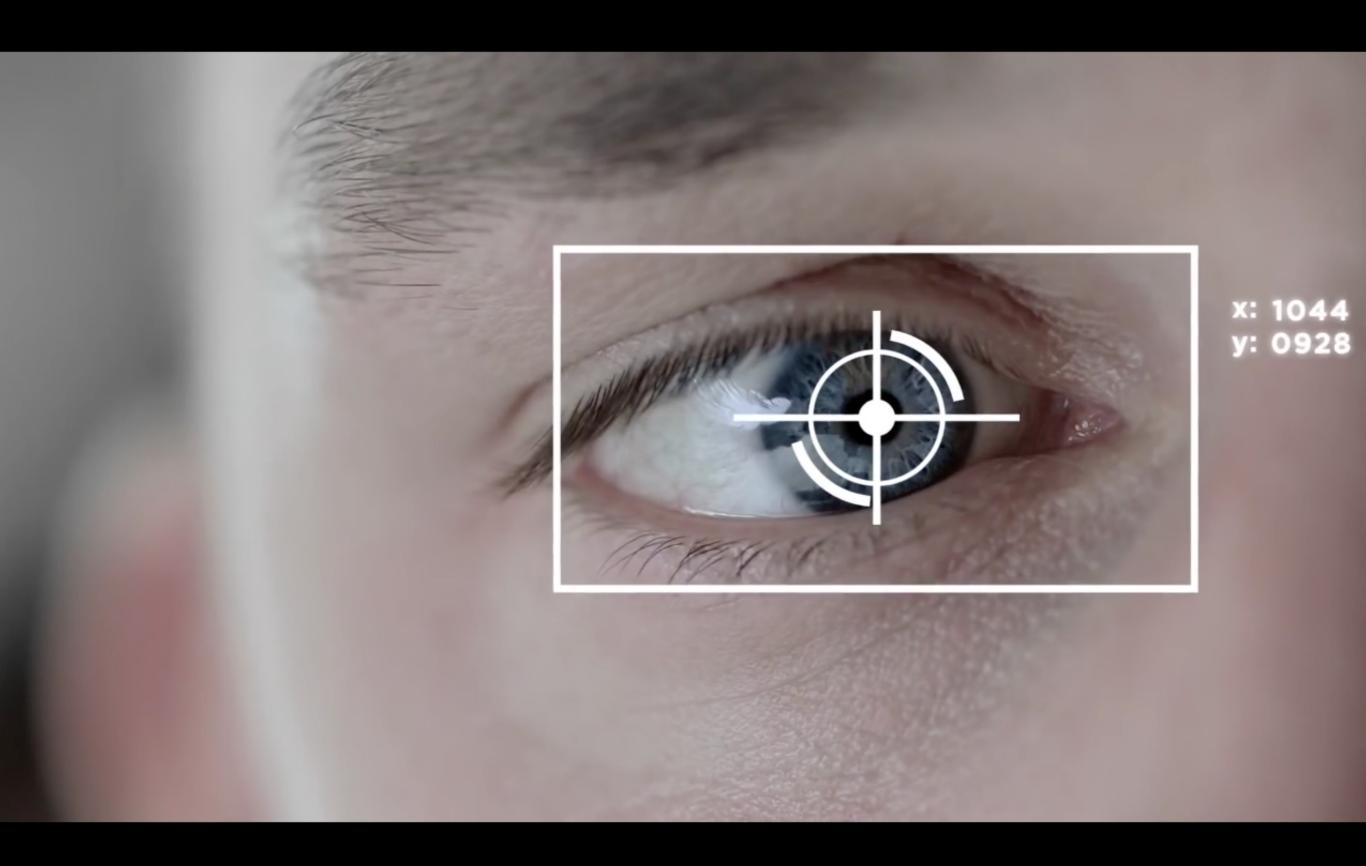


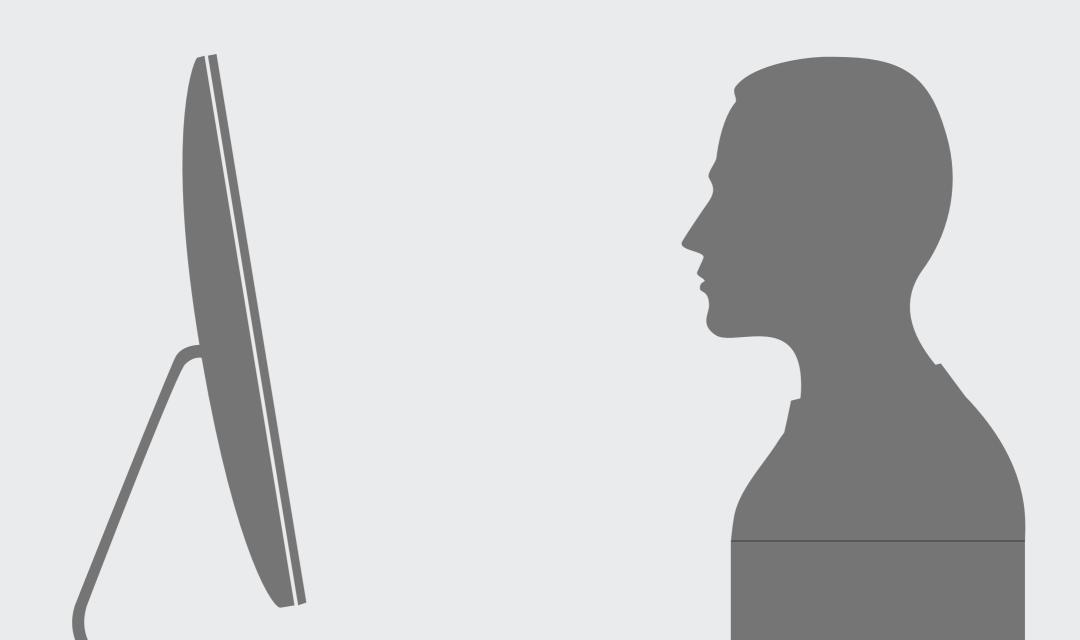


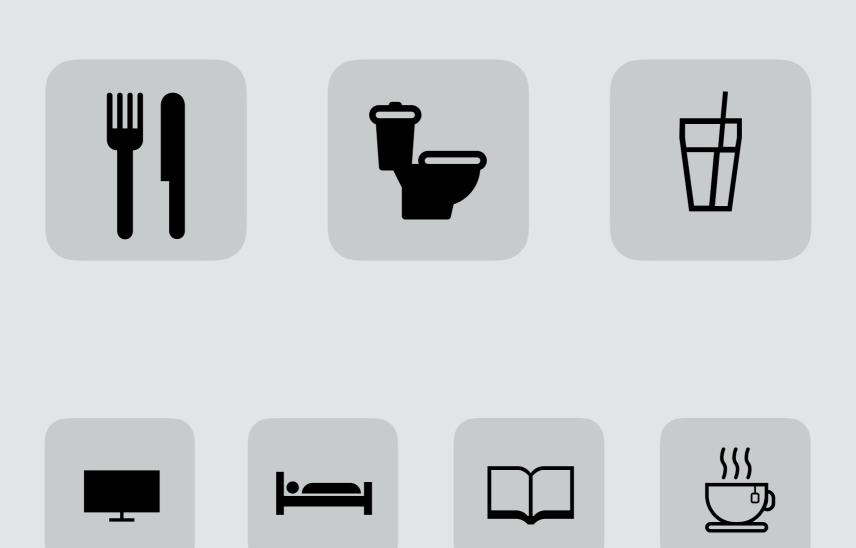














## Initial plan

Meeting the patients and caregivers.

Identifying the needs.

Short demos.

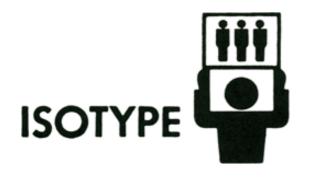
water tv tea radio

book newspaper brushing

bath washroom yes/no

sleep food change sides





■ X ■ Noun Project

# Earlier plan

Identify the needs

**Categorise them** 

Create

**User testing** 

### Current plan

Identify the needs

**User testing** 

Create

**User testing** 









Could you please get me a glass of water



Could you please get me a glass of water

# But why an icon why not an image?

Simplifies the form

Easy to identify in first go

Unifies

Scalable on digital platform





# How do we determine what needs require icons/pictograms?

We design for the very basic tasks first

# How to determine which icon is the best?

Create — test — iterate

### How to evaluate?

#### ISO 9186-1:2014

- Appropriateness
- Comprehensibility

# User testing Appropriateness ranking

#### "I need water to drink."

Most appropriate

**Moderately** appropriate

Least appropriate























Direct pictogram



Public environment



Abstract symbol



Objectified



Action



Action



Abstract and direct

















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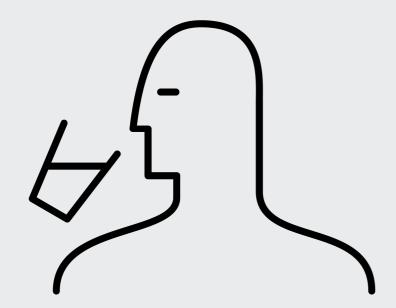




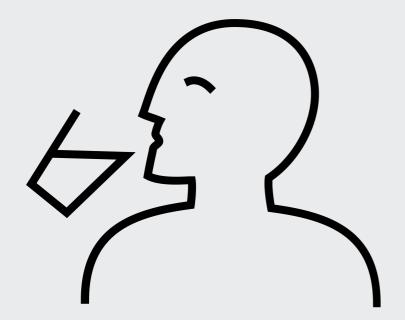


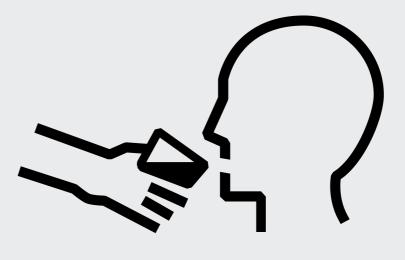
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# Comprehensibility test

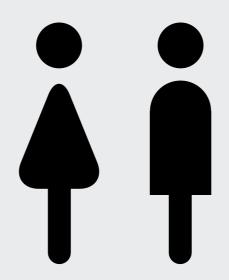


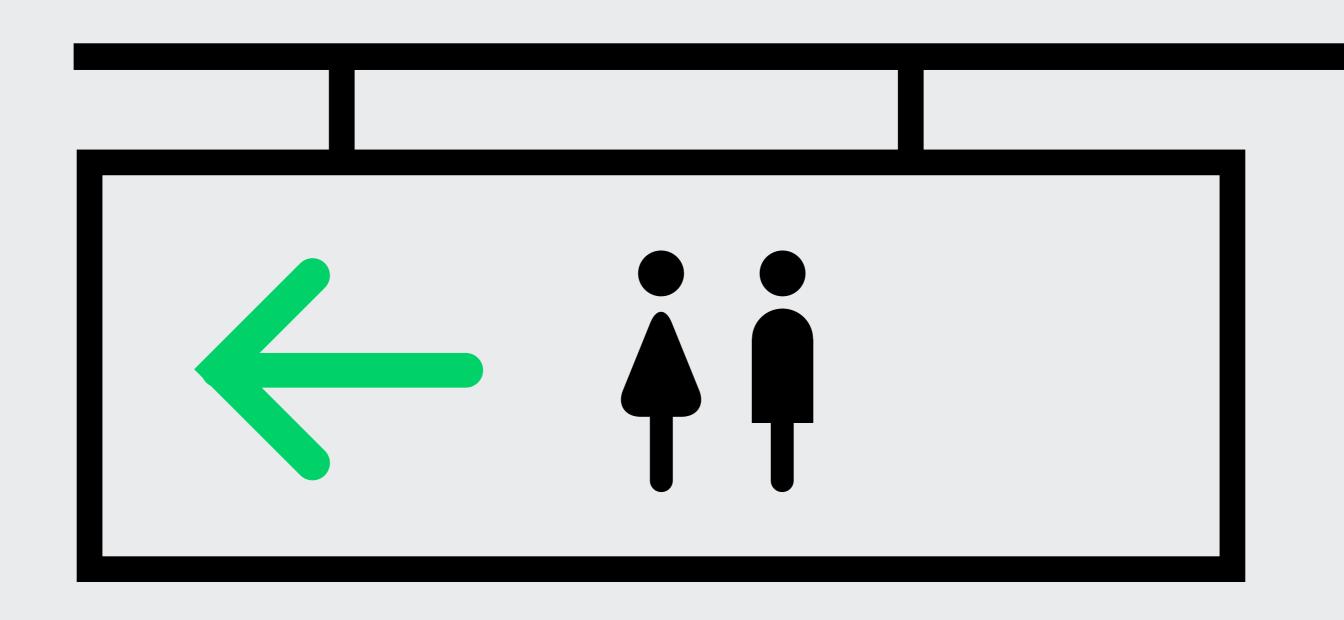


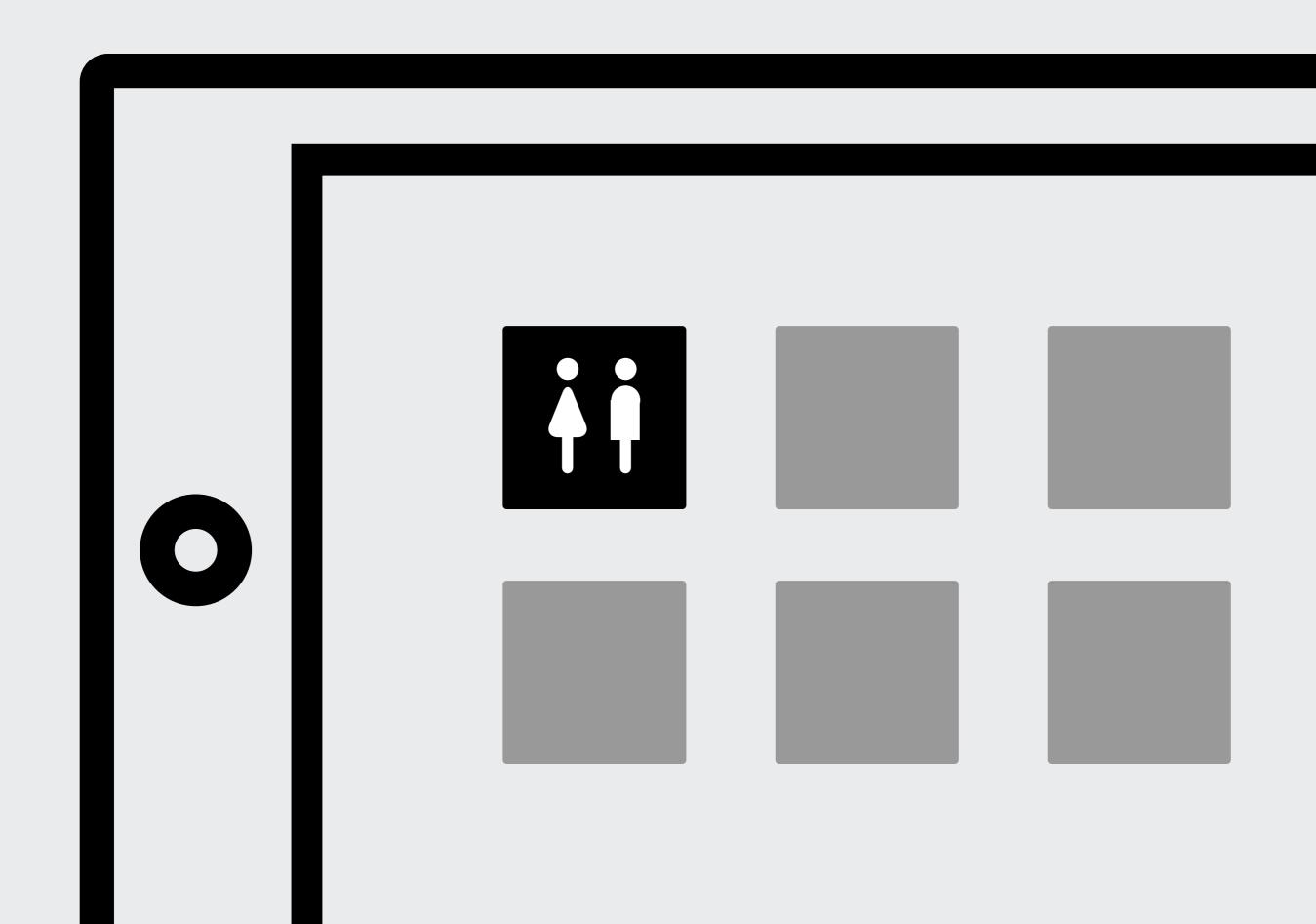


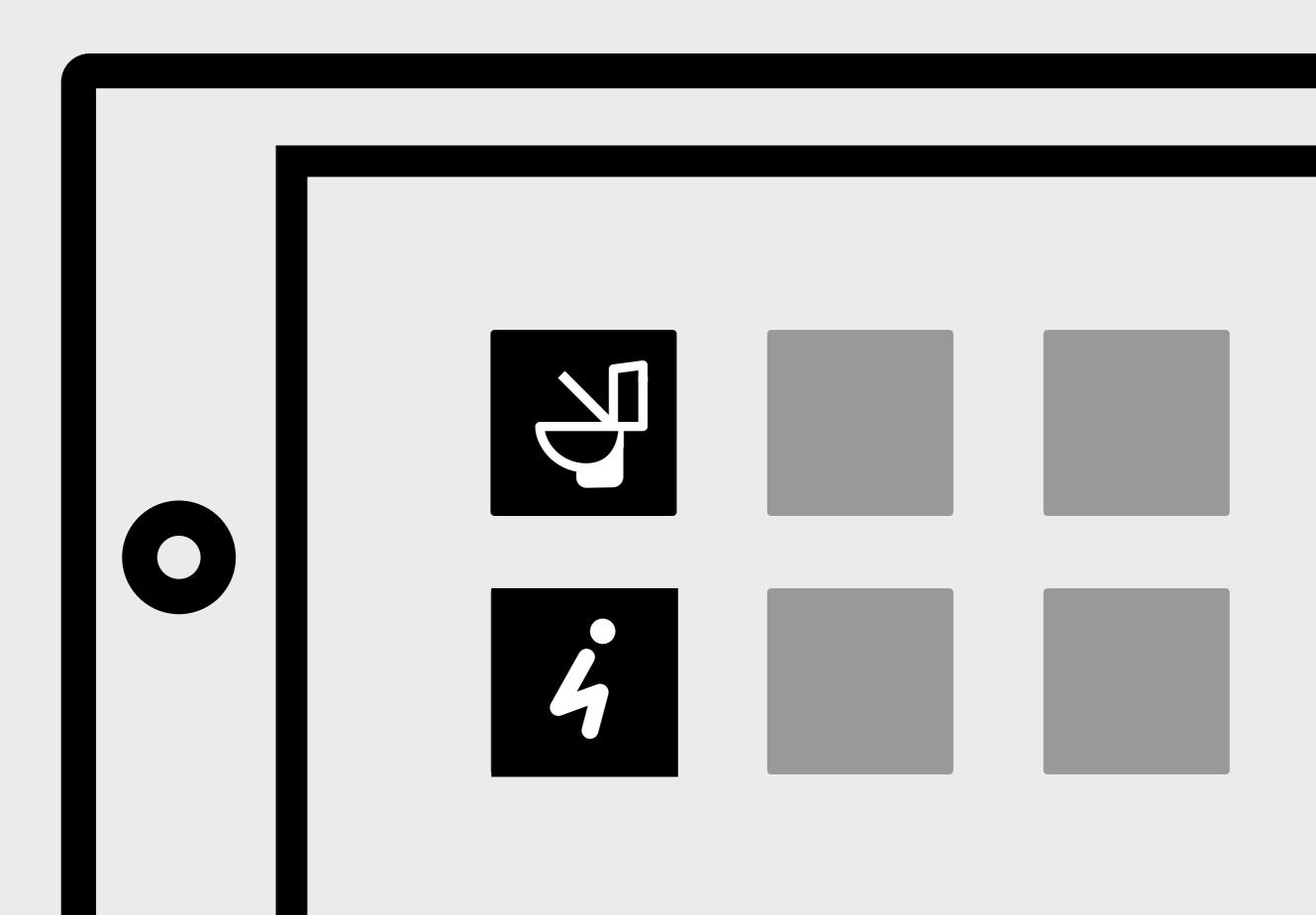


If categories are generic why not use the already designed icons/pictograms?









## Other scopes













### Interaction 1

Female

65 years old

Maldives

Brother and daughter take care

Lies down for most of the time.

Changing sides during the day and night too.

Complex script hence cannot use type.

#### Interaction 2

Male

75 years old

Son takes care

Recently lost the ability to speak still tries his best to speak.

Has to run his business in which son helps.

### Interaction 3

Male

75 years old

Hired Caretaker

Makes sounds to

get attention

Had a very active lifestyle.

Attendant is always around.

#### Patient's relative

... I never try to lift him up from the bed I am scared I might snap his shoulder... Only Nilesh lifts him up...

... He can understand him way better than we ever did.

# Patient's caregiver

... I had an experience to take care of patients dealing with spinal cord injuries.

... there wasn't any formal training.

... a lot of things are scheduled through out the day and week.

#### Essential needs

#### Consume

- eat
- drink

#### Hygiene

- rinse / spit
- urinate
- stools
- shower

#### Mobility

- move around
- change sides

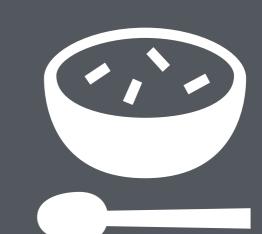
#### **Approval / Disapproval**

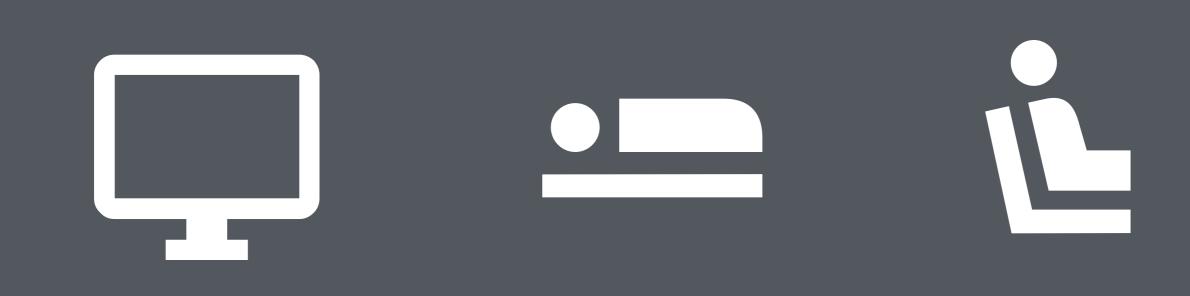
Leisure activities

## Icon set















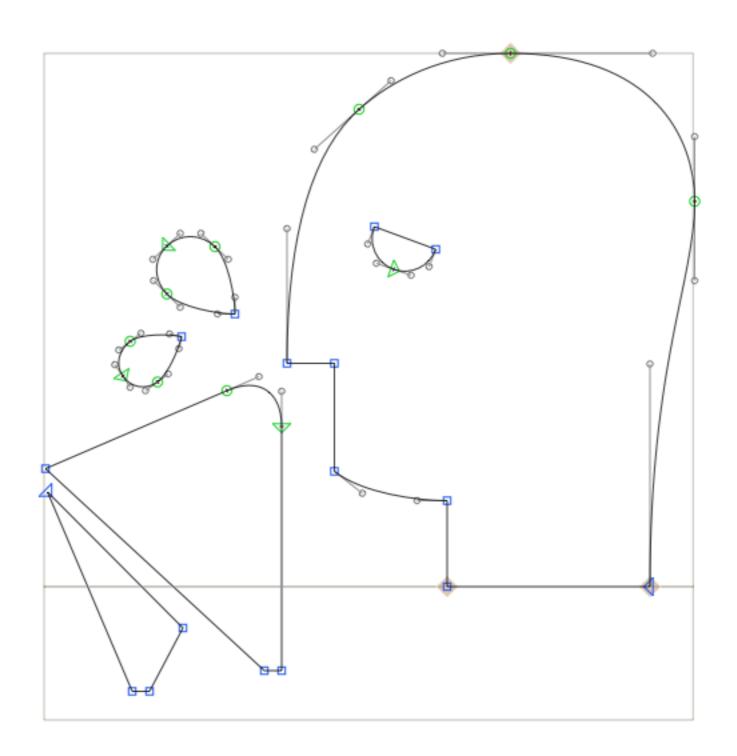


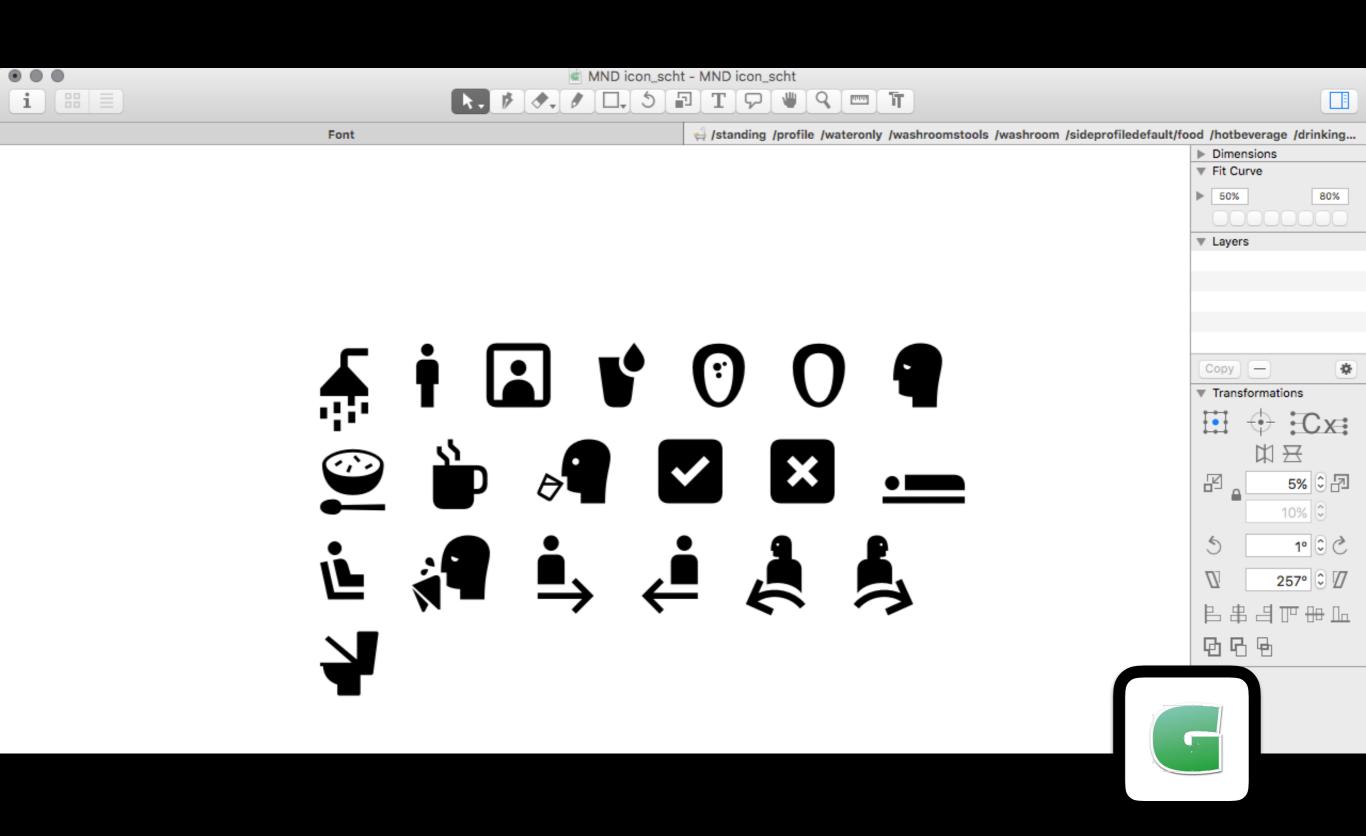


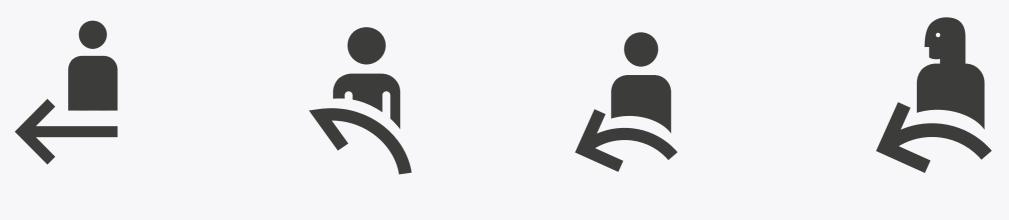


















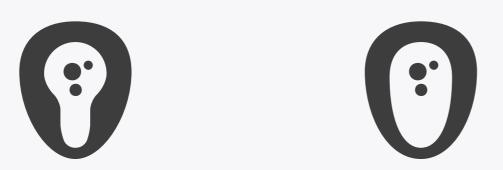












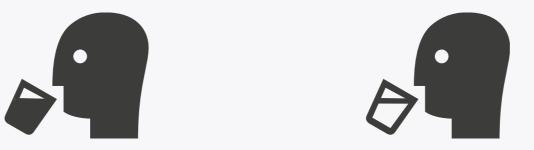




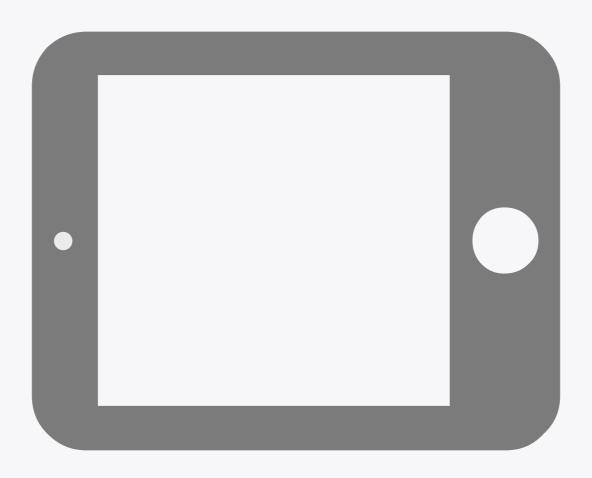




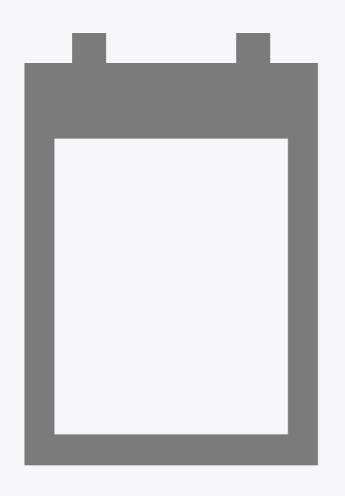




## Applications



**Eye-tracking device** 







Visual cue cards

## Key insights

Patient's and caregiver's bond becomes really strong over time.

Not everyone can take care of the patient.

It becomes irritating for a patient to keep asking him again and again.

### An overview

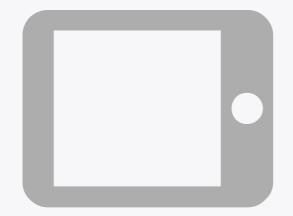
Setting up an ecosystem for the patient's caregiver as well the doctors and the organisation would beneficial for the project in the longer run.

## Training platform

Setting up a training platform with the help of MND community and the hospital to train and provide caregivers to the families of the patients

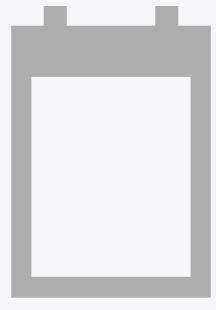






# COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS





## Building a community

A platform to document the project and making it accessible to everyone is a desirable state of the project.

- A website.
- An online library of icons.

### **THANK YOU**

#### Resources

- Pictograms by Yukio Ota
- Handbook of pictorial symbols by Rudolf Modley
- Symbol Comprehension Testing Protocol
- ISO.org
- The Noun Project
- Semiotic elements and classes of signs by Charles Sanders Peirce
- Github
- Google Design