

Exploring Decision Makers' Perceptions on Welfare Technology in Swedish Municipal Elder Care: A Qualitative Study

Åsa Larsson Ranada¹, Katarina Baudin², Vedrana Baric¹, Johannes Österholm¹, Ingrid Hellström³

¹ Department of Health, Medicine and Caring Sciences, Division of Prevention, Rehabilitation and Community Medicine (PRNV), Unit of occupational therapy, Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden,

² Division of Occupational Therapy, Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society, Karolinska Institutet, Huddinge, Sweden

³ Department of Health Care Sciences, Marie Cederschiöld University, Stockholm, Sweden

Welfare Technology within Municipal Elder Care

“all technology which in one way or another improves the lives of those who need it. Technology is used to maintain or increase security, activity, participation or independence for people with a disability or the elderly”

(Nordic welfare center. (n.d). Accessed at: <https://nordicwelfare.org/en/welfare-policy/welfare-technology/> January 16th 2025.)



Welfare Technology within Municipal Elder Care

- ✓ Higher Quality and Efficiency in Health and Social Care
- ✓ Transition to Person-Centered, Community-Based Care (Nära vård)



Aim

“to explore decision-makers ' perceptions on implementing welfare technologies in Swedish municipal elder care”



Methodology and data

Individual semi-structured interviews

Four politicians and twelve local government officials

Reflexive thematic analysis was utilized.

(Braun & Clark, 2006, 2019)



Findings

Welfare technology as a necessary mean for sustainable and long-term solutions

The encounter between welfare technology and bureaucratic structures

Establishing a shared responsibility for utilizing welfare technology



Cont. Findings

Moving in-between acceptance and resistance

Welfare technology to reduce the burden on staff

Aspiration for increased independence and participation in everyday activities of older people



Conclusions

Welfare technology is viewed positively by local decision-makers as a long-term solution to challenges associated with funding and staff shortages in elder care.

It is expected to reduce the burden on staff and increase independence and participation for older people.

However, bureaucratic challenges must be addressed to enhance the quality of elder care.



Publications:

Baudin K, Österholm J, Hellström I, Bolic Baric V, & Larsson Ranada Å. (2025) **Does welfare technology contribute to security, activity, participation, and independence within municipal elder care? - a qualitative study protocol.** BMJ Open, 15:e094424. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2024-094424>

Österholm, J., Baric, V., Hellström, I., Baudin, K., & Larsson Ranada, Å. (2025). **Decision Makers' Perceptions on Implementing Welfare Technology in Swedish Municipal Elder Care: A Qualitative Study.** BMC Geriatrics, 25, 423. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-025-06102-5>



Thank you for listening!

www.liu.se

WellTECH@age - Linköpings universitet