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DISSERTATION TITLE: *Use of welfare technology in elderly care*

The growing elderly population is putting strains on the society's welfare system. Scarce welfare resources restrict human care services for everyone in the future. Thus, it is essential to transform elderly care arrangements to assure that elderly people who need it the most, are still provided with personal care in a satisfactory manner. The government aims to expand the use of technology-supported care alongside several other care options in an effort to make elderly care more sustainable. The technology utilised in this setting has been dubbed "welfare technology", which is the Scandinavian notion for assistive technology.

This thesis reports from two interpretive case studies and an action research study where I explore upon the use of welfare technology in a care housing and a nursing home. The aim of the research is threefold: (1) to study constraints and benefits of using welfare technology in elderly care, (2) to study elderly users' barriers to adoption and use of welfare technology, and (3) to study how technology-supported services better can be incorporated into the elderly care work. A key constraint of elderly care is the primary focus on formal care services and the lack of attention paid to technology-supported services that all elderly people actually can use. Thus, I present two proposals, one practical approach by the action research study, and one conceptual approach by the introduction of the elderly care trajectory aiming to overcome the key constraints I have identified to realise the use of welfare technology to its full potential. The trajectory acknowledges the joint collaborative care work (self-care, informal care and formal care) and makes assumptions for technology-supported services by its use of levels of automation from pre-trajectory to the end of the trajectory.