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Implementation process of reablement in Municipalities; a Norwegian perspective

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Introduction: Implementation of reablement in home care is increasing in Norway and internationally. However, there is still a lack of knowledge about how health care professionals experience public management. This is evident in a recent review, where the focus is on cost saving, and need of more information about intervention.

Objectives: Thus the aim of this study is to gather knowledge about conditions influencing the implementation processes of reablement and the consequences for Occupational Therapists.

Method: In this qualitative study, eight focus group discussions were conducted with health care professionals including OTs working within reablement in three different municipalities. Data was analyzed with Systematic Text Condensation.

Results: From an organization perspective preliminary findings indicate that implementation of reablement is experienced both as a top-down and down-top process. Framework conditions enable double loop learning. Furthermore, OTs are considered as an important profession in the implementation process, and collaboration among OTs, PTs, nurses and assistant nurses increase. The health care professionals experience a number of challenges, such as the lack of clearly defined roles and information to users and collaborators. In addition, the lack of power and decision-making structure in the implementation process is a challenge.

Conclusion: OTs take and are given a central role in the implementation of reablement. Even if there are national strategies about reablement and changes in home care systems, there is a need of local enthusiasm to fulfill the implementation process.