

## **Implications of technological advances in the Swedish Barnahus-context: Practitioners' views on children's rights to protection, participation and a fair trial**

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Introduction: A clear structure for multidisciplinary collaboration is required for the best interests of the child. Trial operations with Barnahus started in Sweden in 2005. The overall aim of Barnahus is to provide a child-friendly, safe and neutral environment for forensic interviews, medical examination and treatment to child abuse victims and witnesses of violence. The purpose is to offer a coordinated and effective child protection and criminal justice response, and to prevent traumatisation and retraumatisation during investigations and court proceedings. Today, there are Barnahus in more than 30 places in Sweden. The rapidly growing digital world affects children's lives as well as the multidisciplinary collaboration at Barnahus. Technology assisted abuse and crimes against children are increasing. As a result, these cases can be expected to be handled to a greater extent at Barnahus. Digitalisation also has implications for the multidisciplinary collaboration at Barnahus; for instance, remote and distance work has become more common. The present study investigates how technological advances affect the overall aim of Barnahus. Methods: Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with approximately 10 professionals at Barnahus. The participants will represent child forensic interviewers, medical personnel, prosecutors, psychologists and social workers. The interviews will be recorded, transcribed and analysed using thematic analysis. Results: Practitioners' self-reported experiences of and beliefs about the consequences of digitalisation on the collaboration at Barnahus and the overall aim of Barnahus will be discussed. Moreover, opportunities and challenges to meet the rights of vulnerable children will be highlighted; specifically, children exposed to technology assisted violence, children with disabilities and children who have witnessed domestic violence or other criminal acts between caregivers. Conclusions: The study shed light on the importance of multidisciplinary team efforts and dimensioning at Barnahus - at international, national, regional and local level - when taking appropriate measures to protect the rights of children.