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## **Development of an instrument measuring the quality of residential care facilities for older people**

**Aims.** To validate the Swedish version of the Sheffield Care Environment Assessment Matrix (S-SCEAM). The instrument's items measure environmental elements important for supporting the needs of older people, and conceptualized within eight domains.

**Methods.** Item relevance was assessed by a group of experts and measured using content validity index (CVI). Test-retest and inter-rater reliability tests were performed. The domain structure was assessed by the inter-rater agreement of a second group of experts, and measured using Fleiss kappa.

**Results.** All items attained a CVI above 0.78, the suggested criteria for excellent content validity. Test-retest reliability showed high stability (96% and 95% for two independent raters respectively), and inter-rater reliability demonstrated high levels of agreement (95% and 94% on two separate rating occasions). Kappa values were very good for test-retest ( $\kappa = 0.903$  and  $0.869$ ) and inter-rater reliability ( $\kappa = 0.851$  and  $0.832$ ). Domain structure was good, Fleiss' kappa was 0.63 (range 0.45 to 0.75).

**Conclusion.** The S-SCEAM of 210 items and eight domains showed good content validity and construct validity. The instrument is suggested for use in measuring of the quality of the physical environment in residential care facilities for older persons.