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## **The agency of young MS patients in working life and rehabilitation**

The subject of this longitudinal study is the agency of young adult multiple sclerosis (MS) patients in working life. The participants were interviewed for the study in 2012 and 2018. The study sought to answer the following two research questions: What kind of agency do the interviewees have in relation to working life and rehabilitation in 2012 and 2018? How has the interviewees' agency changed over the six years? The interviews were analysed using theory-driven content analysis based on Amartya Sen's and Martha Nussbaum's capability approach and Jyrki Jyrkämä's modalities of agency. Following the same interviewees allowed me to detect changes in their agency. Their agency in relation to work was open, goal-directed, calm, or coping, and it changed as the illness progressed. Care and rehabilitation maintained their ability to function and work even when the illness progressed, and changes were made in the workplace. An approving work community and superiors protected the agency of MS patients and strengthened them as promoters of their own and the community's well-being. A stressful work atmosphere led MS patients to keep silent about their illness and look for another job.