Evaluating the process of change:
Studies on patient journey, hearing disability acceptance and stages-of-change

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This thesis was carried out within the Swedish Institute for Disability Research (SIDR), Linköping University, although most of the research was conducted in Wales. Inspiration for research in this area came from his attendance at a collaborative seminar at the Ida Institute, Denmark in 2009. After the seminar, he and late Professor Dafydd Stephens started working on studies related to the patient journey which resulted in some initial publications. Subsequently, he continued his research work in this area with guidance and support from Professors Thomas Lunner, Jerker Rönberg and Gerhard Andersson.

Several studies were conducted with the broad aim of understanding the process of change in adults with hearing impairment and their communication partners. This thesis includes a summary of five main studies which have used both qualitative and quantitative research methods. A few additional studies conducted in this area have been used as supplementary evidence. The theoretical concepts and the research methods used in these studies draw inspirations from many disciplines including psychology, health science, disability studies, social sciences, and business management. The implications of these studies for clinical practice and directions of further research have also been discussed.