Patient resistance to treatment recommendations. Analysis of how epistemic territories of experience and medical expertise are recruited in interactions between doctors and older patients

A recurrent theme in research on clinical encounters is the tension between the medical expertise of the clinician and the everyday experience of the patient. This idea emerges clearly in Mishler's (1984) microanalysis of the medical interview but it is also at the core of research on medical paternalism (cf. Bremer 2004). Within the medical interview, medical authority is especially relevant in the parts of the encounter that involves diagnosis and recommendation of treatment. Research by Peräkylä (1998, 2002) on how doctors offer diagnosis has nuanced our understanding of medical authority by demonstrating that rather than making flat out diagnostic assertions based on their medical expertise, doctors go to some length to make the general basis of their diagnostic judgments available to patients. In this presentation I will explore the boundaries of medical authority in the stage of the encounter where treatment recommendations are made. Drawing on prior research in conversation analysis (Costello & Roberts 2001; Koenig 2008, 2011; Roberts 1999; Stivers 2007; Weidner 2012), I will analyze the grounds for encouraging or limiting patients' participation in treatment discussion. The research that I will present is developed in close collaboration with Ann Weatherall (Victoria University of Wellington). In the study we draw on two sets of data: research recordings of routine and acute visits in New Zealand primary care and excerpts from the Swedish television documentary Sjukhuset but during my presentation I will focus the analysis on examples from the Swedish corpus. The study is one of several investigations implemented within the pilot project Dignity in Action (FORTE dnr 2013: 2169). A summary of the project is available on the following website: http://www.forte.se/sv/Projektkatalog/?arende=29461

References
Koenig, Chris (2011). Patient resistance as agency in treatment decisions. Social Science and Medicine, 72, 1105-14.