Near-patient tests as grounds for recommending treatment in Swedish Primary Care

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Treatment recommendations have attracted considerable interest within Conversation Analytic research on medical interaction (Stivers & Barnes, 2017). In this talk I examine treatment recommendations in Swedish doctor-patient consultations where patients present with symptoms of acute respiratory tract infection. The data is drawn from video recordings of primary care visits.* I will examine a subset of visits where the C-reactive protein test has been administered. Preliminary analysis suggests that the way the test is introduced and implemented constitutes it as the primary evidential ground for recommending a particular treatment (c.f. Lindell, 2018). Given that biomedical tests are increasingly used for a broad range of medical conditions, this study is relevant beyond the clinical context of respiratory infections by shedding light on the balance between voice of the life-world and the voice of medicine as well as the deontic and epistemic aspects of treatment recommendations.


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