In this pioneering volume, foretasted planned in a Brazilian academic context, Gonçalves brings together a variety of interdisciplinary studies on PRESENCE in healthcare communication - implications for professional education research from interrelated areas such as sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, caring science, philosophy, ethics, psychology, education and communication in their discussion of the communicative challenges of PRESENCE in healthcare.

Drawing from a variety of research settings, the book explores issues such as the continuum of doctors’ presence in their interaction with patients, the relevance and role of presence in the quality of health care delivery to the elderly, female patients’ right to information/guidance on their cancer related problems, perception/representation of infant death in pediatric contexts and humanization and communication expertise in medical education.

The timeliness of its appearance and the tackling of issues of paramount importance such as presence, ethics, deinstitutionalization of healthcare, humanization and recognition of patients’ rights to quality information and communication make this book a must for both researchers and students of institutional discourse as well as practitioners in healthcare related professional communities of practice.

Why has medicine become so technologized and detached from the interrelationship with the patient? Why do patients feel so hopeless and anxious in their consultations?

Professional distance, educated incapacity, main focus on procedures rather than on the person, lack of empowerment of the patient, lack of expertise to communicate with and relate to the patient. These are symptoms that point to a serious disease: the lack of PRESENCE in healthcare communication.

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