Coding Scheme Bad News Communication

**Main topic**

**Bad news communication**
Conversations between physicians and parents concerning their child’s severe diagnosis, limited treatment options or poor prognosis.

**Themes**

- **Timing**
  The timing of conversations, and presence/absence of bad news communication.

- **Information**
  The content of the given information.

- **Setting**
  The circumstances under which bad news is communicated.

- **Roles**
  The position of healthcare professionals, parents and children with regard to information and/or decision-making.

**Codes**

- **Timing**
  Moment of disclosure of bad news in illness trajectory.

- **Presence/Absence**
  Information on whether a conversation took place at all.

- **Uncertainty/ lack experience**
  The way in which uncertain information or lack of experience was communicated.

- **Language**
  Adjustment of language to understanding of parents.

- **Furte expectations**
  Information given on what to expect in future (care and prognosis).

- **Circumstances**
  The setting in which a conversation took place (notification, location, support afterwards).

- **Process conversation**
  The way in which conversations included questions and decision-making (follow-up conversations).

- **Information outside conversations**
  The information conveyed outside of conversations.

- **Parental input**
  The position of parents with regard to information and decision-making.

- **Children**
  The way in which children are informed and involved in communication.

- **Presence of healthcare professionals**
  The presence of healthcare professionals in conversations (number, involvement).