SUMMARY

This thesis is a result of more than a three year long ethnographic research of a resuscitation unit of a Czech hospital where I have been employed as a general nurse. I describe the character of provided care and show that medical care is not simply an answer to patient’s needs and interests but it is shaped by wide range of different motives and factors which are often in mutual conflict. Not infrequently it is the case that interests of health care providers are preferred to patient’s interests. I discuss situations when doctors are forced to act more as good accountant managers than physicians, which might often be in conflict with the idea of good care, and I show how care is negotiated in these situations. I also focus on relationship of medical technologies and its users, some ritualized elements of care and in conclusion explain an apparent paradox that care can be evaluated as successful even if it didn’t lead to improvement of the patient’s condition or her survival.

Keywords: health care, medical technologies, objectification, medicine, rituals in health care