

## **Abstract**

This thesis focuses on the approach of obstetric and postnatal care providers towards women in the Czech Republic. To identify what experiences the mothers deemed essential and to explore the impact of physicians' approach towards them, qualitative research based on semi-structured interviews was conducted. Those interviews were later analyzed using mainly the sociological framework originating from Talcott Parson's role-based theory of the doctor-patient relationship, namely the paternalistic and partnership models of the doctor-patient relationship and the concept of person-oriented care. The main findings of the research are that interviewed women who experienced rather paternalistic model tend to imply overall dissatisfaction with the obstetric and postnatal care, meanwhile those women who experienced rather partnership model described their experiences as rather pleasant and stated they would choose the same hospital for labor again. The research identified six key topics, that interviewed women referred to as crucial for them in care providers' approach. These topics are routine, privacy, information, physical integrity, method of communication, and degree of empathy. Aside from the main findings, the research has also discovered that the paternalistic and partnership approaches can create conflict situations when they collide. This phenomenon occurred in cases when health care professionals applied different approaches in postnatal care, or in cases where the paternalistic approach of health professionals did not meet the expectations of the respondents, leading to respondents trying to empower their position.