

**Supplementary Box 2. Excerpt of a consultation to illustrate doctor–child–adult talk.**

► d. co:me and take a seat Peter that is your seat there ↓ *Doctor points at a seat, looking at child.*

► d. hi ↑ Mr Smith (.) (*Doctor gestures to the father*) come and take a seat (.) right *Doctor points to father's seat.*

Lines of transcription omitted.

► d. I think it is proba::bly worth giving a course of antibiotics yo::u happy with that ? *Doctor looking at the father.*

► a. (.) yer *Father looking at the doctor.*

► d. are yo::u happy to take some antibiotics ? *Doctor looking at the child.*

► c. (1.0) ye::rs *Child looking at the doctor.*

This excerpt of a consultation with Peter (all names used are pseudonyms), his father and a doctor illustrates how the doctor can invite the child and his adult carer to sit in an arrangement of the doctor's choice, as seen in lines 1 and 2. In this situation the seating is in a triangular arrangement. When this seating arrangement was used in this study it resulted in three-way or triadic discussion as demonstrated in lines 3–6.