Communication through language is central to the practice and provision of healthcare. It mediates how illness is understood, diagnosed and experienced. Effective and sensitive communication improves information-provision, diagnosis, support, self-management and self-esteem; poor or insensitive communication can cause misunderstandings, misdiagnoses, frustration, anxiety, stigma, and even death. In this talk I argue that Corpus Linguistics has the potential to make a crucial difference in healthcare research and practice. Drawing from a series of recent and current projects within the ESRC Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science at Lancaster University, I show (a) why corpus linguistic methods are appropriate and needed in research on health(care) communication, (b) how they can be employed, and (c) what they can contribute in terms of research findings, practical applications, and methodological 'bridge-making’ between quantitative and qualitative approaches in health research. I will also reflect on the personal and professional rewards and challenges of research on health(care) communication.