We may distinguish 3 levels that describe what a patient experiences:

**Illness**
(the person’s subjective experience of symptoms. What the patient brings to the doctor)

**Disease**
(underlying pathology; biologically defined. Illness recast in terms of a theory of disorder: the practitioner’s perspective)

**Sickness**
(social & cultural conceptions of the condition. These include reactions such as fear or rejection, which influence how the patient reacts)