MACHINES but had not used them. Of the 42 machines identified 27 (64%) nebuliser (or had done so within the last year) and a further 2 homes had experience of nebuliser use in previous hospital employment. None of the nursing homes had any specific written guidelines on what to do if the resident deteriorated or failed to gain benefit from the nebuliser. Residents using a nebuliser were not under regular medical review in 14 (50%) of the 28 NH, in the remaining 14 (50%) homes review was from the G.P. alone.

Conclusions
Nebuliser use is common in nursing homes. Machines need regular maintenance and this is not happening. All residents using a nebuliser routinely ought to be under regular medical review. Staff supervising residents with nebulisers would benefit from formal instruction in their use. Practical guidelines on nebuliser maintenance and clinical use would be welcomed.