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Title: The evolution of home mechanical ventilation in Poland between 2000 – 2010

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Body: In the last decades the methods and indications for home mechanical ventilation (HMV) have changed significantly mainly due to technological development and an increasing number of patients with chronic pulmonary disorders. Data about HMV comes from developed countries. The aim of the study was to verify whether the same trends in HMV practice are observed in under privileged European country. Questionnaire was sent to 10 centres providing more than 90% of HMV in Poland. Questions concerned number of patients, setting of initiation, indications for and the modes of ventilation during the last ten years. Data regarding 1032 patients was collected from 8 HMV centres. The number of treated patients increased from 8 in 2000 to 799 in 2010. Neuromuscular diseases still remain the main indication for HMV, however, their contribution gradually decreased from 88% to 51% of all patients treated in favor of pulmonary diseases (from 6 to 23%) and hypoventilation syndromes (from 3 to 12%). The number of patients treated via tracheostomy was higher than treated with NIV in the period 2000-2008 and then the proportions equalized. The percentage of children treated has decreased from 88% in 2000 to 21% in 2010. ICU is the principal location where HMV was initiated. However, its role diminished from 86% of all qualified patients in 2000, to 46% in 2010, while an increasing number of patients were requited in respiratory departments: from 8% in 2001 to 35% in 2010. Indications for HMV in Poland moved from neuromuscular to respiratory diseases. However, the shift was not as marked as in more developed countries. Prevalence of invasive

mode of ventilation still remains very high in relation to general European practice.	