Dr Emmanuelle Akuffo I think it’s important to talk directly to the people with learning disabilities who may become ill and end up in hospital. Carers are very important. You have to take a collaborative history from them, but it’s always important to talk to the service user.

We have to understand, a person with a learning disability may be coming to the hospital for the first time. He or she may be frightened, you know, worried about the environment, the strange people and so on and so forth. And so it’s the best thing to get the first hand interaction with that person. When you need extra information, then of course you talk to the carers and those who have accompanied.