

## Correspondence

To the Editors,

### **Power cuts and storage of vaccines**

*Sri Lanka Journal of Child Health*, 2002; **31**: 28

(Key words: power cuts, storage of vaccines)

Sri Lanka is in the midst of five-hour power cuts because of the energy crisis. Under these circumstances it is extremely important to maintain the cold chain for vaccines. Often even in situations when generators or invertors are in use, refrigerators are not provided with power. Problems with the maintenance of the cold chain for EPI vaccines in Sri Lanka have been documented earlier<sup>1</sup>.

Therefore it is the duty of the prescriber to ensure that the patient is directed to an institution with a continuous supply of power for immunisation. It is also the responsibility of the Ministry of Health to ensure the maintenance of the cold chain for the EPI vaccines. The relevant institutions/individuals

in the private sector who provide EPI and non EPI vaccines for which the patients incur expenditure, should also comply.

#### **References**

1. Senanayake Manouri P, Dias Perera ASN, De Silva TUN. Power cuts and EPI vaccine storage. *Ceylon Medical Journal* 1997; 42: 69-71.

**Prof. Sanath P Lamabadusuriya**

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