

# LETTERS

## HEALTH WORKER FLU VACCINATION

# Vaccination for voluntary and private sector workers should be free

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This editorial focuses on an important preventive issue,<sup>1</sup> but I wonder how many colleagues realise and would approve of government policy, which fails to fund flu vaccination for non-NHS (and non-social services) professional carers—that is, those employed by the voluntary or private sector, by far the majority?

These low paid carers must pay for vaccination themselves because their employers rarely do; the result is they are mostly left unprotected in the case of an epidemic, free to spread flu to thousands of vulnerable people, or else stay off sick in great

numbers with dire consequences to their clients. Can we exert pressure on the Department of Health to change the rules?

Competing interests: None declared.

1 Nair H, Holmes A, Rudan I, Car J. Influenza vaccination in healthcare professionals. *BMJ* 2012;344:e2217. (28 March.)

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