## SUMMARY

Emergency care should be available to all as anyone may unexpectedly require medical care at any time for a life threatening medical or surgical condition.

Primary care hospitals in Sri Lanka provide primary health care; those services should be accessible to all individuals who require various types of health services. Primary health care, as defined by the World Health Organization, is universally accessible health care that is socially acceptable, affordable and requires individuals to be more self-reliant with their health care needs.

Twenty four (24) primary care hospitals and 22 primary medical care units are available in Nuwara Eliya district and most of them are situated in very remote Rural and Estate areas.

The Central Provincial Health Department issued a circular to ensure availability of emergency life supporting drugs, devices, equipment and other supplies in hospital sector emergency trolleys.

There are many issues in availability of emergency, life supporting drugs, devices and equipment (Emergency trolley items) in primary care hospitals in Nuwara Eliya District. This study was carried out with an aim to improve the availability of emergency trolley items in primary care hospitals in Nuwaraeliya district.

The study consists of three steps. The first step was to study the current situation and reasons for shortages of emergency life supporting drugs, devices and equipment of primary care hospitals. Second step was an intervention to improve the supply chain of emergency trolley items in primary care hospitals. Third step was a descriptive study to assess the effectiveness of the intervention.

There were many gaps in availability of emergency trolley items in all Primary Care Hospitals when compared with standards given in the emergency trolley circular of central province.

The development and implementation of intervention package made a significant improvement in availability of drugs (T=-3.304 p=0.004), devices (T=-3.225 p=0.012), and equipment (T=-3.652 p= 0.003) of emergency trays in primary care hospitals.

The findings showed an increment in the availability of the drugs, devices, equipment and other supplies in post intervention study when compared to the pre intervention study.

The study recommends to conduct regular capacity development programmes for in-charge medical officers of primary care hospitals and in-charge nursing officers of emergency treatment units/emergency rooms or any other officer having responsibility in handling emergency care on available drug management and supply chain management policies, guidelines, circulars, proper usage and handling emergency life supporting drugs, devices and equipment. Furthermore, it is recommended to use the guide lines, reporting forms, and monitoring formats which were developed in the research project.

The research project recommends to update the central provincial circular on emergency trolley items and to include items mentioned in the accident and emergency guidelines of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine.

Key words; Availability of emergency care items, Emergency treatment unit.