

My topic is the UK and US health care systems, and advantages and disadvantages within both systems.

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The purpose of my paper [**why, what, how**]

The Citizens state of health has a huge influence on the society's economy. In the US the health care system bill is paid completely by the individual and in the UK it is mostly paid by the Government. I have been inspired by Michael Moores film, *Sicko*, to work out whether it is a financial advantage to a society to provide public health care like in the UK, and if the fact that the health care is paid by the Government has any influence on the quality of the treatment offered. I will mainly use statistical data from the internet and articles to compare the two systems.

Presentation

Comparison between UK and US health care systems

- **Basic facts**

UK:

- NHS = central element of the welfare state, founded in **1948**,
- **Free** health care to everyone **regardless of income**, if they are normally resident in Britain.
- **90 %** health care provided by NHS

US:

- **Age over 65**, public health care in the form of **Medicare**
- **Families with children**, modest income but too high to qualify for Medicaid, can get **SCHIP** (State Children's Health Insurance Program)
- **Medicaid** partly insurance, for people with **limited income** or financial resources.

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- **Graphs and numbers**

Uk blue graph: government £80,6 billions in 2002 = 83 per cent of all spent

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- **Hygienic conditions and treatment**

UK:

- Dirty floors and rooms, damaged equipment (source: American couple that have experienced both systems)
- **100,000 patients hit** by **hospital acquired infections** (fx. **MRSA; 32,000 patients die** every year of this)
- As little money as possible to educate the doctors

US:

- clean hospital, new and better equipment (source: American couple that have experienced both systems)
- doctors **better paid: attracts the best**

Cost of a hip replacement:

UK: cost £3.755 in UK paid by NHS. Rate of exchange 10,5 = US\$ **7169**

US: around US\$ **16,000** to US\$ **18,000**. Rate of exchange 5,5

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- **Disadvantages** (summing up, conclusion)
 - UK:
 - **Unqualified doctors**, cannot find the problem
 - Gets the **cheapest treatment**, NHS pays
 - **Dirty hospitals** and broken equipment
 - US:
 - **No help** with **acute illness**, medical bankruptcy
 - **Ill people** cannot get **insured**, **insurances companies** refuse to pay for treatment (**excuses**)
 - Health insurance through **job**, **no insurance** if you are **fired**.

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My conclusion

The political systems (hhb note: det fungerer som perspektiveringsgrundlag og løfter diskussionen)

UK:

- Keynesian economics, maintain economic growth, both private and public sectors play important roles.
- The government had to spend to stimulate the depressed economy in Britain

US:

- American Revolution in 1776, said no to paying taxes to the British.
- They do not want the government to tell them what to do.
- Government should keep subjects from injuring each other, and stay out of their business.

The health care systems

UK:

- Treatment for everyone
- Private hospitals for special treatments (out-of-pocket payment)

US:

- No treatment for poor
- People wait to go, more ill
- Best doctors, no waste in resources

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