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## “Universal” Health Care

Posted By [Shannon](#) On Wednesday, May 20, 2009 @ 9:23 am In [Front Page](#) | [25 Comments](#)

*Are we rolling downhill like a snowball headed for hell?*—Merle Haggard

With the Democrat party firmly in control in Washington, we seem to be headed for a massive overhaul of the U.S. health care system. All Americans would do well to read a well-researched report by the Cato Institute’s Michael D. Tanner entitled, [1] [The Grass Is Not Always Greener: A Look at National Healthcare Systems Around the World.](#)

“Socialized medicine” and “Universal health care” are catchall phrases which poorly describe the wide variations in government policies and programs operated in European countries and elsewhere. Mr. Tanner’s forty-eight page report compares these systems. I would direct your attention to the analysis of the British and Canadian systems in particular, as well as the French system.

Excerpt from the Summary:

- In countries weighted heavily toward government control, people are most likely to face waiting lists, rationing, restrictions on physician choice, and other obstacles to care.
- Countries with more effective national health care systems are successful to the degree that they incorporate market mechanisms such as competition, cost sharing, market prices, and consumer choice, and eschew centralized government control

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[1] The Grass Is Not Always Greener: A Look at National Healthcare Systems Around the World.: [http://www.cato.org/pub\\_display.php?pub\\_id=9272](http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=9272)

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