

Re: Canadians, a couple of questions about health care

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Sorry to dispel your understand HS. The insurance companies have very little if anything to do with pricing. I'm unfortunately a bit of an expert on pharmaceuticals and pricing not through choice. No they are not of the recreational nature either.

Drug pricing is sometimes but not always based on equivalencies. That is if costs x to provide a certain level of control or care then a drug that can provide the same thing over an similar period of time is priced accordingly. Most very expensive drugs cost the same in Canadian dollars in Canada as they do in American dollars in the US. Some countries such as India have for certain drugs such as those for AIDS have simply told the drug companies they would pay a royalty of some "x" and that was it take it or leave it but in either case they would manufacture the drug for domestic consumption.

I'm not sure about your "force" statement. What about NAFTA?

"Hartmann Schaffer" <hs@hartmann.schaffernet> wrote in message news:q_hAd.1751\$2a1.12467@newscontent-01.sprint.ca...

> *Kurt Ullman wrote:*

> > ...

> > *Actually they are kept affordable because your government puts a gun to the head of the Pharm companies and says this is what we will pay for the medications and if you don't like it we'll take away the patent and make it for ourselves. Take it or leave it.*

>

> *and how do you arrive at that stupid conclusion? with nafta, law suites would be flying all over the place in such a situation, and i haven' heard of any. more likely we benefit from the single payer system: the insurance system told the pharmas how much they are willing to spend, and the pharmas figured out that they are still making a profit, albeit not as much as in the states. note that nobody forces them to sell here.*

>

> *hs*