



California Association of Health Plans

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The Wall Street Journal: The U.K.'s Government-Run Health Care Service is in Crisis

The NHS is struggling under the effects of budget cuts, Covid delay and an aging population

February 14, 2023 – The Wall Street Journal this week published an article revealing the real-world struggles the U.K.'s government-run health care system is facing, even though it is often held up as a model system by activists seeking to establish a single-payer health care system here in the U.S. and California. Despite the U.K.'s continued efforts to keep the system afloat, the government-funded system, is, according to the article, “falling apart,” and costing lives. The U.K.'s experience should serve as a reminder to those considering following in their footsteps, that a forced government-run single-payer healthcare system would greatly jeopardize the quality of health care that millions of Californians rely on. The U.K. clearly cannot afford single-payer and neither can California.

Excerpts from the article are below.

The Wall Street Journal: The U.K.'s Government-Run Healthcare Service Is In Crisis, by David Luhnrow and Max Colchester

February 6, 2023

“People who suffer heart attacks or strokes wait more than 1 ½ hours on average for an ambulance. Hospitals are so full they are turning patients away.

“...Delays in treating people are causing the premature deaths of 300 to 500 people a week.

“...A 5-year-old boy has died of tonsillitis in a rich, industrialized country. It shows the entire system has serious issues.

“...An 83-year-old woman in Leicester with a suspected stroke waited more than 18 hours in a makeshift tent outside a hospital emergency room.

“...The number of long-term ill people in the U.K. has shot up by half a million in the past two years, to a record 2.5 million, something economists say is due in part to the NHS’s inability to quickly treat sick people.

“...seven in 10 now describe the NHS service as bad.

“...one in eight adults in Britain said they paid for private healthcare in the past year because NHS waiting lists were too long.

“...By December, a total of 401,537 people in England were waiting more than a year for hospital treatment.

“...Ambulances began to form lines outside of hospitals, waiting to discharge patients because of a lack of free beds.

“...It’s not if harm is going to occur, it’s how much.

“...We always believe that the NHS exists for us when we’re in need, said Mr. Patel.
“But personally if I had to call an ambulance. I wouldn’t. I don’t trust them. I can’t.”

To read the full article [click here](#)

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CAHP is a statewide association representing 43 full-service health plans. Through legislative advocacy, education and collaboration with other member organizations, CAHP works to sustain a strong environment in which our member plans can provide access to products that offer choice and flexibility to the more than 28 million members they serve. For more information, please visit <http://www.calhealthplans.org/> or call (916) 552-2910.