

The Price We Pay for Health: US and Canada Canada vs. United States Healthcare

Name: _____ Date: _____

Canada's Health Care System

- Everyone insured; government is the insurer
- Higher taxes to pay for health care
- No competition among doctors
- Technology – not as advanced as in the US
- “Heroic” medicine is not a common practice

United States Health Care System

- 44 million uninsured
- Government pays health care for elderly and very poor
- Employers are insurers—What happens if you lose your job?
- Doctors set their own fees
- High quality services available for those who can afford it
- “Heroic” medicine is commonly practiced

Heroic Medicine—Drastic measures taken to save a life. Often this refers to efforts to save someone who has little chance of surviving the procedure. It may also refer to efforts to treat elderly patients with expensive procedures. (Examples of heroic medicine—transplant for an 80 year old, surgery on a premature baby)