

SINGLE PAYER IN SWEDEN –
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LAWSUITS - FEW AND FAR BETWEEN

(paraphrased from Niles -- published on February 25, 2007)

If our society want to get rid of the alleged frivolous medical malpractice lawsuits, I have a solution for them. Remove the incentive to sue - single-payer national health care. What would you sue for?

My wife's father is from Sweden, and we have visited Sweden twice. In conversations, I found out that there are very, very few malpractice suits filed in Sweden. You CAN file such suits - it is perfectly legal to do so. But, in Sweden, just as in the United States, you need to sue for monetary damages.

Health care is no-fault. You get treated if you are sick. You get treated if the physician made a mistake. You simply get treated.

Their system incorporates disability pay, long-term insurance, and all kinds of things into "national health care." According to my relatives - and this is an exact quote from one of them - "what would we sue for?"

If a consumer reports a problem to the authorities, they can take action against the doctor. But, that action is independent of having the patient treated, and all the treatment received is paid for by single-payer, national health care.