

“Our Health and Theirs”

In the midst of complaining about the poor health services in Kuwait, it is fair to mention some honourable points we can easily notice in our system compared to a more advanced healthcare system. For instance, our system sticks to the principle of providing health insurance to all citizens for free. In Canada, on the other hand, the government offers free health services with the exception of dental, physiotherapy, and medications. Whereas in Kuwait, we offer everything without any return.

So our health beats theirs.

The Canadian system is structured on a commercial health insurance system, which simply means that doctors and clinics treat patients then charge the government through the public health insurance. As a result, healthcare services are progressing and there's no need for doctors to work in the government hospitals in the morning and at their own private clinic in the evening.

Here we say, their health beats ours.

Despite being patterned after a commercial system, Canadian healthcare is entirely within the government healthcare network. There are no private hospitals or clinics, and a Canadian citizen is not able to choose the specialist or hospital he desires. He can only choose the family doctor in hopes of getting a referral to a specialized hospital. Unless you have a *wasta*—influence—to get what you want, you are left to luck.

You may wonder how this is possible, but it's true. I had been to a sports therapy center in Canada to treat a shoulder injury, but my therapist “Elizabeth” had to travel to America for her young daughter's ear operation. I asked why she didn't