

Funding the Future

The US does not have a model for a successful health se...

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I thought this [tweet](#) by Clive Peedell worth sharing:

Clive is Co-founder of the [NHAparty](#). He is an NHS consultant clinical oncologist with interest in lung & prostate cancer and other related issues. He also has a pretty good brain for economics.

This critical slide he was sharing was, perhaps, this one:

Going into debt: Bankruptcy Rates in Cancer Patients
Data from Western Washington SEER registry 1995-2009

Table 2. Cumulative Incidence of Bankruptcy and Overall Survival Probability in the First 5 Years After Cancer Diagnosis in the Propensity Score Matched Sample

Cancer Type	No. of Years After Diagnosis					
	1		2		5	
	Bankruptcy (%)	Survival (%)	Bankruptcy (%)	Survival (%)	Bankruptcy (%)	Survival (%)
Prostate (n = 1,028)	11	99	19	97	38	91
Breast (n = 1,650)	9	99	19	97	38	91
Lung (n = 518)	25	70	35	52	47	38
Leukemia/Lymphoma (n = 822)	12	92	21	87	41	78
Colorectal (n = 663)	12	97	23	92	42	76
Melanoma (n = 520)	11	99	20	97	41	93
Uterine (n = 324)	10	100	20	97	40	91
Thyroid (n = 413)	10	100	20	100	41	98
Other (n = 1,789)	14	90	24	83	42	73

Ramsey, et al, J Clin Oncol, 2016

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I haven't done the weighted averages on the data, although it would be easy to do. The simple facts stand out. After five years most people who have cancer in the USA are alive. In fact, overall it looks like there might be a near nine in ten chance of that.

And the associated cost is a 40% chance of bankruptcy.

That is no way to run a health service.

And yet this is the model those in office in the UK aspire to.