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## Obamacare, Thai Style.

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As many Americans scramble to understand and take advantage of the new health care legislation, now that Obamacare is going to remain on the scene for at least another year, there is one insurance carrier that is offering such premier coverage, for so little cost, that it is having trouble finding customers who believe it's legitimate. To add to the problem, it's not even an American company, but has its main office in Brisbane, Australia.

And if you need medical treatment, you don't get it at home – you go to Thailand for it.

"Sounds crazy, I know" says Subscriber's Insurance Corporation (SIC) CEO Teddy Michaels, "but our policy offers a great alternative to the American system of health care. For a flat yearly fee of sixteen-hundred dollars we can offer the best medical care in the world, with no deductibles. You fly to Bangkok, enter [Bumrungrad Hospital](#), get your procedure done, spend a few days on the beach recuperating, and then fly back home – good as new!"

A separate SIC policy covers all dental work, including things like braces for children, root canals, crowns, and dentures, and costs seven-hundred dollars per year. Again, there is no deductible, but you do have to fly to Bangkok to have the work done.

SIC has found a good market for its services in Australia, which is only a six-hour flight from Thailand, but will it appeal to sick Americans, who have to fly for nearly twenty-two hours to reach Bangkok?

A round-trip ticket to Bangkok from almost anywhere in the United States runs about \$2100.00.

Medical tourism in Thailand is a booming industry. For 2012 (the latest year statistics are available) nearly two-billion dollars were spent by foreigners coming to Thailand for medical and dental procedures. Most Thai doctors and dentists are trained in the United States prior to returning to Thailand to practice.

An SIC health insurance policy cannot be bought directly in the United States yet; several Federal government agencies still need to approve it. And the American AMA is staunchly against its introduction in the United States.

lobbying Congress to ban all SIC's products from the American market.

Anyone interested in SIC or any other foreign health insurance plan must go online and dicker with a Canadian insurance agent to get coverage. Michaels says he has a bank of phone operators in Winnipeg who are online to chat and take orders over the phone 24/7.

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