

# FAQ

## **Does this research project have IRB approval?**

We are currently in the process of getting IRB approval through Pearl IRB, for both the Survey and the Interview Guide.

## **What is IRB approval for?**

Getting an independent review board to approve our study confirms we are following the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP). This allows us to apply for publication.

## **Will my personal information be kept confidential?**

Yes. Set in accordance with the IRB all contact information and survey responses will be kept confidential. Please see the attached consent form.

## **Why does this project only look at physicians?**

We fully understand that moral injury is not unique to physicians. It was found during a literary analysis of existing research that were gaps in the research around moral . Particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic several institutions looked into the moral distress of nursing staff and health care workers as a whole. This particular project, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is looking to fill the gap of research to look at the financialization of healthcare and its impact on actively working physicians. The survey was actually taken from a UVA study on the moral distress of nurses.

We received approval from their PI to edit the survey to make it geared to physicians as we could not find research that looked into that occupation specifically.

## **How will interviewees be chosen?**

Interviewees will be decided by our Leadership Team in coordination with our Consultant at the Cambridge Health Alliance We are aware the project has bias, we are not looking to have a randomly controlled study. This is a qualitative project to get to the underlying impact of financialization on moral injury and the unbalanced racial impact it could have on patients. We are hoping to have a blend of 20-40 PNHP and non-PNHP members participate as interviewees.

# PNHP

PHYSICIANS FOR  
A NATIONAL  
HEALTH  
PROGRAM



## **WHAT IS MORAL INJURY?**

MORAL INJURY IN HEALTHCARE REFERS TO THE PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS EXPERIENCED WHEN HEALTHCARE WORKERS KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THEIR PATIENTS BUT ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE IT DUE TO CONSTRAINTS BEYOND THEIR CONTROL. THESE SYSTEMIC CONSTRAINTS, INCLUDING PROFIT-DRIVEN PRACTICES, NOT ONLY HARM PHYSICIANS BUT ALSO COMPROMISE PATIENT OUTCOMES.

## **HOW DOES MORAL INJURY DIFFER FROM BURNOUT?**

PHYSICIAN BURNOUT IS AN EPIDEMIC IN THE UNITED STATES. IT IS A LONG-TERM STRESS REACTION THAT INCLUDES EMOTIONAL EXHAUSTION AND DEPERSONALIZATION. MORAL INJURY IS ONE OF THE LEADING CAUSES OF BURNOUT.

## **WHAT IS FINANCIALIZATION?**

FINANCIALIZATION IS THE TRANSFORMATION OF HEALTHCARE FROM AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE TO A PROFIT-DRIVEN BUSINESS. THIS SHIFT PRIORITIZES REVENUE OVER PATIENT CARE, RESULTING IN EXCESSIVE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS, RESOURCE DIVERSION, AND DECISION-MAKING INFLUENCED BY CORPORATE INTERESTS RATHER THAN CLINICAL NEEDS.