



Participant Information Sheet

Moral Injury Experiences in Frontline Healthcare Environments

CUREC Approval Reference: R92873/RE001

General Information

My name is Patrick Johnson, and I am a doctoral student at the University of Oxford, working alongside Professor Paul Šalkovskis. This is an invitation to take part in our research study exploring traumatic experiences that occur in frontline healthcare environments which lead individuals to identify as being affected by Moral Injury.

Moral Injury is the damage caused when someone engages in, witnesses, suffers, or fails to prevent an event which violates their moral or ethical code. In line with current thinking on Moral Injury, it may occur if the following criteria are fulfilled: (a) a betrayal of “what’s right”; (b) either by a person in legitimate authority, or by one’s self; (c) in a high stakes situation.

Before you decide whether to take part, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it would involve. Please take time to read this information sheet, and to discuss it with others if you wish to. If there is anything that is not clear, or if you have questions and would like more information, please email me on patrick.johnson@stx.ox.ac.uk

1. Why is this research being conducted?

For this study, we are principally interested in documenting Moral Injury experiences which are suffered by individuals working in frontline healthcare environments. Moral Injury is not as well understood as other psychological difficulties such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. In particular, we don’t yet have a good understanding of Moral Injury experiences that occur outside of military environments as well as the psychological impact of betrayal in healthcare settings. This study therefore aims to document in greater detail morally injurious traumatic experiences and their predominant feelings, thoughts, emotions, and outcomes that occur in frontline healthcare environments.

2. Why have I been invited to take part?

You have kindly shown interest in helping us with this research study. We are happy to hear from anyone who has heard about the study and is interested in finding out more information about

participating. In some instances, you may have been asked to participate, as we are keen to gather the thoughts of people who are 18 years and above and self-identify as suffering from Moral Injury due to experiencing trauma whilst working in frontline healthcare environments.

3. Do I have to take part?

No. You can ask questions about the research before deciding whether you wish to take part. If you do agree to take part, you may withdraw yourself from the study, without giving a reason, and without any negative consequences, by letting us know of your decision to do so. As all collected data is pseudonymised, we will be unable to withdraw your data once you have completed the study (in the case of this study, after you have finished your interview you will have a period of 48 hours during which it is possible to withdraw your data – after this, it will not be possible to remove your data as it will have been anonymised).

4. What will happen to me if I take part in the research?

The study will involve two parts:

1. Filling out a series of questionnaires online.
2. An interview with me (Patrick), either over Microsoft teams (preferred) or in-person.

Upon registering your interest and agreeing to take part by returning a completed consent form, you will be invited to fill out a series of questionnaires which focus on your general mental well-being and Moral Injury indicators. You will be emailed a link to complete these questionnaires along with your unique anonymised Personal Identification Number (PIN). This part of the study may take approximately 30 minutes although for some people it may take longer (up to 45 minutes). You can log in and log out of the programme at your convenience using your allocated PIN, if you would like to take a break from completing the questionnaires. We would appreciate it if you could complete the questionnaires within one week of being sent the link.

Afterwards, you will be invited to take part in a Microsoft Teams interview that will take approximately 30 minutes to 1 hour and will be arranged for a time that is convenient for you. (Interviews can take place over Microsoft teams or in-person.) The researcher will talk you through the procedures of the interview and give you the chance to ask any questions. If you are still happy to take part, you will be asked to give verbal consent. You will then be asked a series of questions to better understand the experience(s) that you have undergone which has led to your identification of suffering from Moral Injury. This semi-structured interview aims to give you an opportunity to describe the circumstances, feelings, and outcomes of your experiences in frontline healthcare environments which have contributed to your identification as affected by Moral Injury.

5. Are there any potential risks in taking part?

For stage 1, all questionnaires are measures that are used in psychological research. At times, some of the questions may feel difficult to think about and it is possible that you might find answering some questions upsetting. You can take a break from the study and return to it later or withdraw from the

study completely at any point during the questionnaire stage. At the beginning and at the end of the study, you will be provided with contact details of services and third-party organisations that will be able to offer you further support and guidance if needed. In the case of stage 2, the questions in the interview will be chosen under the supervision of a subject guide and will have been reviewed by the university's ethical approval committee. However, there is the potential that answering these questions could be upsetting – you are free to take a break from the interview or withdraw from the study completely at this point.

6. Are there any benefits in taking part?

There will be no direct benefit to you from taking part in this research. We hope that your participation will help us understand experiences, emotions, and outcomes related to Moral Injury identification. We hope that this might then contribute to the development and improvement of psychological support for people affected by Moral Injury.

7. What happens to the data provided?

The information you provide during the study is the research data. Any research data from which you can be identified (i.e., your name, email address, and telephone number) are known as personal data. Personal data will be stored on a password-protected, encrypted document securely stored on university servers. Personal data will be stored until the research data has been gathered, and then it will be permanently deleted. We will store consent records securely on University of Oxford servers for 3 years after publication or public release of the research results. This information will then be permanently deleted and destroyed.

Research data obtained from questionnaires will be stored securely by the University of Oxford for 3 years after publication or public release of the research results. This information will then be permanently deleted and destroyed from university storage.

The research team involved in this study will have access to the research data. Responsible members of the University of Oxford may be given access to data for monitoring and/or audit of the research. All personal information that could identify you will be removed before results are made public. Using the research data, we hope to report our findings in Patrick's doctoral dissertation with the potential for publishing the findings in academic journals and/or presenting them to relevant charities and other researchers at conferences. You will not be identified or identifiable in any reports or publications arising from the study.

8. Will the research be published?

The University of Oxford is committed to the dissemination of its research for the benefit of society and the economy and, in support of this commitment, has established an online archive of research materials. This archive includes digital copies of student theses successfully submitted as part of a University of Oxford postgraduate degree programme. Holding the archive online gives researchers easy access to the full text of freely available theses, thereby increasing the likely impact and use of that research. The research will be written up in Patrick Johnson's doctoral dissertation. On successful

submission of the thesis, it will be deposited both online and in print in the University archives to facilitate its use in future research. The thesis will be openly accessible, and the research may also be written up for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The research team may also disseminate findings to charities involved in supporting people with Moral Injury (e.g., the International Centre for Moral Injury).

9. Who has reviewed this study?

This study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, a subcommittee of the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee (Reference number: R92873/RE001).

10. Who do I contact if I have a concern about the study or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please contact Patrick Johnson (patrick.johnson@stx.ox.ac.uk, 01865 226431) or Professor Paul Šalkovskis (paul.salkovskis@hmc.ox.ac.uk, 01865 226431) and we will do our best to answer your query. We will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how it will be dealt with. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the Chair of the Medical Sciences Interdivisional Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford who will seek to resolve the matter as soon as possible:

Email: ethics@medsci.ox.ac.uk and/or ethics@socsci.ox.ac.uk

Address: Research Services, University of Oxford, Boundary Brook House, Churchill Drive, Oxford OX3 7GB

11. Data Protection

The University of Oxford is the data controller with respect to your personal data, and as such will determine how your personal data is used in the study. The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. Research is a task that is performed in the public interest.

Further information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available from <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/individualrights/> <https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/ethics/resources/consent>

12. Further Information and Contact Details

If you would like to discuss the research with someone beforehand (or if you have questions afterwards), please contact:

Patrick Johnson

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Email: patrick.johnson@stx.ox.ac.uk

You can also speak to the supervisor of the project about any questions or concerns using the details below:

Professor Paul Šalkovskis
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