**Moral Injury Interview Study**

**THANK YOU for completing our health and wellbeing questionnaire. You previously indicated in the questionnaire that we could contact you again, so we would like to invite you to take part in another one of our studies. Here is some information about the study.**

## What is this study about?

The study aims to understand the impact of potentially morally injurious events on NHS clinical staff who responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, we want to know what impact exposure to these events has had on your mental health.

**Who is carrying out the study?**

NHS CHECK is a collaborative effort led by a research team at King’s College London and King’s Health Partners, supported by expert clinicians, frontline staff and researchers across different NHS Trusts and Universities, and the NIHR Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre.

## Who is funding the study?

This work was supported by funding from Manolo Blahnik, and seed funding from the King’s Together Fund and King’s College London, the NIHR Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre, the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Emergency Preparedness and Response and further funding from the Rosetrees Trust, Economic and Social Research Council, University College London, NHS England and Improvement and Medical Research Council.

## What are the benefits of taking part?

Many people who have been interviewed have said that they valued the opportunity to talk about their experiences. If you are currently having any mental health related problems, the research team can provide appropriate signposting to other services that you might find useful. By taking part you will help us to gain a greater understanding of the mental health and treatment needs of healthcare staff. The results of this study may inform future mental health services for healthcare staff and may also help to break down the barriers that prevent people from seeking the help that they need.

## If I agree to take part, what will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to take part in a telephone/video conferencing interview with one of our researchers, at a time convenient to you. This should take no longer than one hour. This interview will be recorded to make sure that the interviewer does not miss any of the information that you give. The recording will be securely destroyed at the end of data collection.

**What will I be asked about in the interview?**  
We will ask you about your experience of any potentially morally injurious events you experienced at work while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Moral injury refers to any sense of distress you have experienced (often shame, anger, guilt, or disgust) related to doing, witnessing or learning about something that clashes with your deeply held moral or ethical beliefs and values. We wish to understand any potential impact this has had on your mental health or on other aspects of your life, as well as your perspective on what trusts can do moving forward to prevent or support staff in dealing with these difficult experiences.

## Do I have to take part?

No, participation is voluntary, and you are under no obligation to take part. However, for our results to be valid, it is important for us to hear from as many people as possible, and so your participation counts.

## How do I withdraw from the research?

If you do not wish to take part in the interview study you can let us know by emailing us at nhscheck@kcl.ac.uk. You can also withdraw by stopping the interview at any point during the call, or you can withdraw the information you gave in your interview after you have taken part at any time. We will then ensure that your email is removed from the email distribution lists. We aim to publish non-identifiable data in brief summaries within weeks of data collection. Therefore, withdrawal of data from the published summaries/papers will not be feasible. If you wish to withdraw, please contact us. Our contact details are given at the end of this leaflet.

## Are there any disadvantages to taking part?

It is unlikely that participation in this study will be harmful to you. However, if you are not comfortable answering any of the questions you can stop the interview or move on. If you are very distressed as a result of completing the interview, we will ask a mental health professional to call you to offer help and advice. Everyone who takes part will receive a Signposting Booklet which contains the contact details of organisations that can offer relevant help. This is available on our website.

## What happens if I suffer harm?

Although we think it is unlikely, in the event of you suffering any adverse effects as a consequence of your participation in this study, you are free to make a complaint to Professor Sir Simon Wessely at King’s College London at the following email address: nhscheck@kcl.ac.uk.

## Has this study been reviewed?

The study protocol has been reviewed by the Health Research Authority IRAS number 282686.

## Who will get to see the information that I give in the interview and how will my information be stored?

All information will be kept strictly confidential. It will be stored securely and will only be accessible to the research team. We will not share your personal information with anyone outside of the research team. We will not pass your contact details to any third parties. The only exception is if you tell us something which makes us concerned about your safety or the safety of others, which we are legally obliged to do. However, we would discuss this with you before telling anyone else. The overall findings and results of the study will be published, but individual responses will be **entirely confidential**. Records will be held for 10 years and you have the right of access to your records at any time.

Questions, comments and requests about your personal data can be sent to the King’s College London Data Protection Officer Mr Albert Chan info-compliance@kcl.ac.uk. If you wish to lodge a complaint regarding information rights, please contact the Information Commissioner’s Office via www.ico.org.uk. We may share anonymised data with our trusted research partners, via an official request for authorisation. This data will not be able to be traced back to any individual. Any data sharing and transfer arrangements are compliant with GDPR and King’s College London policies. If you would like more information about how your data will be processed in accordance with GDPR please visit the links below: www.kcl.ac.uk/research/support/research-ethics/kings-college-london-statement-on-useof-personal-data-in-research https://www.kcl.ac.uk/terms/privacy.aspx

## How do I get my £25?

Once you have completed the telephone interview and returned your signed consent form to us by email, we will send you a **voucher for £25** to thank you for your time.

## Will I get to see the results of this study?

Yes. We will send you newsletters letting you know about the progress and results. Providing us with up to date contact details will help us to ensure you receive them. In addition, the research team will publish overall results in academic journals.