

MORAL INJURY AMONG NURSES: Stories of Fractured Hearts & Wounded Souls

Informed Consent and Agreement to Participate

This study is directed by Dr. Patricia Pittman of the Department of Health Policy & Management and the Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity, at George Washington University. Please review this important information about your rights and protections to decide if you wish to participate in the study.

Participation is Voluntary. Taking part in this study is entirely voluntary and you may choose not to participate or to stop participating in the study at any time. Your employment status will not be affected in any way should you choose not to take part or to withdraw.

Study Purpose. The project objective is to focus on nurses in a variety of settings, and through the narratives of individual nurses that have experienced, or are currently experiencing “moral injury”, identify the major themes that constrain nurses and are weakening the social conscience of the profession.

Time Required. Your participation in this study will vary. If you participate in a semi-structured interview, your time commitment will be approximately 1 hour. If you send in your story via email, your time commitment will be however long it takes you to write your story. You may decline to answer any questions during an interview and you may stop your participation in this study at any time, including withdrawing your story.

Potential Risks of Participation. Privacy and confidentiality are usually participants’ most important concerns. They are discussed in detail below.

Privacy and Confidentiality Protections. Interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed. Information you provide will be used for research purposes only. The GW Department of Health Policy and Management will have access to notes and recordings to monitor research compliance.

Every effort will be made to keep your information confidential, including coding interviews by number rather than listing names. If results of this research study are reported in journals or at scientific meetings, the people who participated in the study will not be named or identified, unless you provide consent to associate your name with your response. However, confidentiality can not be ever be guaranteed. IN addition, participants who choose to be identified may encounter possible risks to their reputation or employability.

Benefits of Participation. Your participation will provide important information that will be used to expand knowledge of the everyday stresses and difficult decisions nurses must make. If your case is selected for inclusion, it could be part of a manuscript or book. The publication will be an essential tool for nursing educators to stimulate discussion with students about the nursing profession’s ethics and professional future, and will also be of interest to the general public.

Study Approval and Further Information. *This study has been reviewed and approved by the George Washington University Office of Human Research. Please contact Patricia Pittman, Principal Investigator (202-994-4295) or the Office of Human Research of George Washington University (202-994-2715) for further information about your rights as a research participant.*

INFORMED CONSENT: *Your signature is not required in this document unless you prefer to sign it. Your willingness to participate in this research study is implied if you proceed to participate in an interview.*