

### **Are Your Patients Medically Misinformed?**

Thank you for taking time to complete this survey. It is divided into three sections: Background information, Medical Misinformation Experiences, and Professional Training. Response time is expected to take around 10 minutes. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and will be essential to help us understand more about an understudied topic.

#### **First, we would like to collect some information about you and your clinical background. (7 questions)**

1 What is your clinical specialty?

Anesthesiology

Cardiology

Dermatology

Emergency Medicine

Endocrinology

Family Medicine/General practice

Internal Medicine

Neurology

Obstetrics/Gynecology

Oncology

Pediatrics

Psychiatry

Radiology

Urology

Other

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2 What is your current position?

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3 How long have you held your current position?

Less than 1 year

1-4 years

5-9 years

10-14 years

15-19 years

20 or more years

4 With which of the following genders do you most closely identify?

male

female

prefer not to answer

5 What is the zip code of the area where you primarily practice?

(5 digits only) \_\_\_\_\_

6 How would you describe the setting of your current position?

urban

rural

suburban

7 In what year did you receive your most advanced completed degree?

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**Next, we would like to know about your experiences with medical misinformation during clinical encounters with patients. (3-4 questions)**

Patients may bring to clinical encounters information that is factually inaccurate or not supported by

current evidence-based medical literature and/or practices and raise that inaccurate information in conversation. (By evidence-based, we mean based on evidence published in a reputable peer-reviewed journal.) For the purposes of our survey, we can call that medical misinformation. In the past year, have you personally experienced an instance in which a patient raises medical misinformation in a conversation in a clinical setting?

Yes

No

Within the past year, how often have you experienced an instance in which a patient raises medical misinformation during conversation in the clinical setting?

Never

Less than once per week  
about once per week

about 1-2 times per week

about 3-4 times per week  
about 5 or more times per week

In the past year, how often do you think other clinicians experienced instances where patients raise medical misinformation?

Never

less than once per week

about once per week

about 1-2 times per week

about 3-4 times per week

about 5 or more times per week

What are the most common topics that arise when patients refer to misinformation? Name up to three.

**Now we would like to know your experience about misinformation regarding specific topics. In the table below we provide specific broad topics and a frequency scale. Please indicate how often patients refer to inaccurate medical information regarding these topics when interacting with you or colleagues with whom you work directly.**

Topic	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	N/A
Remedies or prevention tips for COVID-19 or other emerging infectious diseases					
The origins or prevalence of					

COVID-19 or other emerging infectious diseases					
Vaccines cause harm					
Essential oils are natural cures for disease					
Statins have harmful side effects					
Alternative treatments for cancer (herbal, nutritional) are more successful than standard treatment (chemotherapy, surgery)					

**Finally, we would like to know if your education and training prepared you for clinical encounters with medically misinformed patients. We would also like to gauge your interest in formal training opportunities on the subject of medical misinformation. (4-5 questions)**

Did your professional education feature any courses or lectures to prepare you for encounters with patients who are medically misinformed?

- Yes
- No
- Cannot recall

Through your formal professional training, did you receive any informal instruction to prepare you for encounters with patients who are medically misinformed? For example, an attending physician who provided advice for working with misinformed patients.

- Yes
- No
- Cannot recall

Would you be interested in formal training to learn more about medical misinformation and how to engage with your patients on this topic?

- Yes
- No

Which of the following methods of training to address patient misinformation would you find useful personally? Select all that apply.

- A one-hour in-person workshop for clinicians and health professionals
- A one-hour online workshop for clinicians and health professionals
- A two-hour in-person workshop for clinicians and health professionals
- A two-hour online workshop for clinicians and health professionals
- Access to a web portal with relevant resources

Would you be interested in hosting a Duke University workshop designed for health care professionals and delivered for you and staff at your organization?

- Yes
- No

**Please choose one of the options below, and thank you for taking the time to complete our survey.**

For more information about training opportunities on medical misinformation, please [click here](#), then click SUBMIT below to record your survey responses.

If you are not interested in training opportunities on medical misinformation, simply click SUBMIT below to record your survey responses.

Supplementary Table 1. Proportion of Practitioners Encountering Medical Misinformation by Community Type.

Specialty	Medical Misinformation		Total
	Yes (N, %)	No (N, %)	
Urban	659 (93)	52 (7)	711
Rural	421 (95)	23 (5)	444
Suburban	957 (95)	49 (5)	1006

<b>Specialty</b>	<b>Medical Misinformation</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>Yes</b> (N, %)	<b>No</b> (N, %)	
Total	2037	124	2161

The p-value for test of difference in proportions among groups based on chi-square statistic is 0.085.

Supplementary Table 2. Proportion of Practitioners Encountering Medical Misinformation by Time Spent in Clinical Practice.

<b>Time In Clinical Practice</b>	<b>Medical Misinformation</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>Yes</b> (N, %)	<b>No</b> (N, %)	
Less than 1 year	162 (93)	13 (7)	175

<b>Time In Clinical Practice</b>	<b>Medical Misinformation</b>		
	<b>Yes</b> (N, %)	<b>No</b> (N, %)	<b>Total</b>
1-4 years	541 (95)	30 (5)	571
5-9 years	424 (95)	22 (5)	446
10-14 years	257 (93)	20 (7)	277
15-19 years	185 (94)	12 (6)	197
20 or more years	477 (94)	29 (6)	506
<b>Total</b>	<b>2046</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>2172</b>

The p-value for test of difference in proportions among groups based on chi-square statistic is 0.726.