BMJ Open Psychological distress and trauma in doctors providing frontline care during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United Kingdom and Ireland: a prospective longitudinal survey cohort study

Tom Roberts , ^{1,2} Jo Daniels, ³ William Hulme, ⁴ Robert Hirst, ⁵ Daniel Horner, ⁶ Mark David Lyttle , ^{2,7} Katie Samuel, ⁵ Blair Graham, ^{8,9} Charles Reynard, ¹⁰ Michael Barrett , ^{11,12} James Foley, ¹³ John Cronin, ¹⁴ Etimbuk Umana, ¹⁵ Joao Vinagre, 16 Edward Carlton, 17 on behalf of The Trainee Emergency Research Network (TERN), Paediatric Emergency Research in the UK and Ireland (PERUKI), Research and Audit Federation of Trainees (RAFT), Irish Trainee Emergency Research Network (ITERN and Trainee Research in Intensive Care (TRIC))

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Correspondence to

Dr Tom Roberts: tomkieranroberts@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Objectives The psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on doctors is a significant concern. Due to the emergence of multiple pandemic waves, longitudinal data on the impact of COVID-19 are vital to ensure an adequate psychological care response. The primary aim was to assess the prevalence and degree of psychological distress and trauma in frontline doctors during the acceleration, peak and deceleration of the COVID-19 first wave. Personal and professional factors associated with psychological distress are also reported.

Design A prospective online three-part longitudinal survey.

Setting Acute hospitals in the UK and Ireland. Participants Frontline doctors working in emergency medicine, anaesthetics and intensive care medicine during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. **Primary outcome measures** Psychological distress and trauma measured using the General Health Questionnaire-12 and the Impact of Events-Revised. Results The initial acceleration survey distributed across networks generated a sample of 5440 doctors. Peak and deceleration response rates from the original sample were 71.6% (n=3896) and 56.6% (n=3079), respectively. Prevalence of psychological distress was 44.7% (n=1334) during the acceleration, 36.9% (n=1098) at peak and 31.5% (n=918) at the deceleration phase. The prevalence of trauma was 23.7% (n=647) at peak and 17.7% (n=484) at deceleration. The prevalence of probable post-traumatic stress disorder was 12.6% (n=343) at peak and 10.1% (n=276) at deceleration. Worry of family infection due to clinical work was the factor most strongly associated with both distress ($R^2=0.06$) and trauma ($R^2=0.10$). Conclusion Findings reflect a pattern of elevated distress

at acceleration and peak, with some natural recovery. It is essential that policymakers seek to prevent future adverse effects through (a) provision of vital equipment to mitigate physical and psychological harm, (b) increased awareness

Strengths and limitations of this study

- ► This paper presents key findings from a large crosssectional longitudinal survey of practising emergency, anaesthetic and intensive care doctors in the UK and Ireland during the acceleration, peak and deceleration of the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This study provides an insight into the personal and professional factors associated with trauma and distress and could be used to identify those doctors who will most benefit from psychological interventions.
- Variation in regional peaks may have influenced accurate capturing of psychological distress and trauma rates and have not been accounted for.
- The findings cannot be extrapolated to long-term psychological impact, and future work is planned to capture this.

and recognition of signs of psychological distress and (c) the development of clear pathways to effective psychological care.

Trial registration number ISRCTN10666798.

INTRODUCTION

Clinicians providing frontline care have become central to the primary reception, assessment and ongoing hospital treatment of patients with suspected COVID-19. These include doctors working in emergency medicine (EM), anaesthetics and intensive care medicine (ICM). While this healthcare workforce is highly resilient and accustomed to facing traumatic situations, the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed unprecedented demands in workload intensity and personal



health risk.¹⁻⁴ High infection rates have been reported in frontline clinicians, with over 150 fatalities in the UK by May 2020. These factors are likely to affect psychological well-being, increasing the risk of traumatic stress both in the acute phase of the pandemic and at long-term follow-up. 6-9 Exposure to infectious disease outbreaks and elevated psychological distress have previously been associated with increased sickness rates, absenteeism, impaired performance at work and the development of physical health problems. 10-12 There is also an emerging evidence base from around the world of the psychological impact on healthcare workers. 13-16 During the current COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a global media focus on health and care workers with widespread public support. However, there is increasing recognition among key opinion leaders and psychological societies that this pandemic will lead to an unparalleled, although as yet unquantified, impact on the psychological wellbeing of healthcare workers. 18 19

Studies evaluating psychological well-being in frontline clinicians during infectious disease outbreaks (including COVID-19) have demonstrated negative impacts that may be significant. 10 20 21 Systematic reviews and metaanalyses converge around common predictors of psychological distress following traumatic events, many of which are relevant to frontline clinicians. Key factors include preparedness, training, social and occupational support, exposure and threat to life, media use and history of mental health problems.^{1 7 21–23} However, these data have largely been collected as a snapshot either during or following outbreaks or as cross-sectional surveys in highly selected or self-selecting cohorts. Longitudinal data which describe evolving and cumulative effects on the psychological well-being of frontline working during the COVID-19 pandemic are therefore urgently required. Such studies are essential to understand and mitigate psychological impacts of future events on this vital workforce and inform the development of policy and interventions.

The primary aim of this study was to assess the prevalence and degree of psychological distress and trauma in doctors providing frontline care during the acceleration, peak and deceleration phases of the COVID-19 pandemic. We also sought to establish which personal and professional factors were significantly associated with psychological distress at these time points.

METHODS

Study design and participants

The 'COVID-19 Emergency Response Assessment (CERA) Study' was a prospective online longitudinal survey of frontline doctors across the UK and Ireland undertaken during the acceleration, peak and deceleration phases of the first COVID-19 pandemic wave. ²⁴ Doctors of all grades working in EM, anaesthetics or ICM during the acceleration phase were invited to participate.

Procedures

This survey study is reported in line with Checklist for Reporting Results of Internet E-surveys guidelines. ²⁵ Full details of survey distribution, design, administration and time points are available in the published protocol. ²⁴ In brief, the survey was initially distributed during the acceleration phase of the first pandemic wave through research networks, training faculties or Royal College Networks via email or instant messaging groups, coordinated by identified site/region leads. The participation link was not shared on wider social media platforms, to avoid international contamination. At completion of the acceleration phase survey, participants entered personal email addresses for direct approach at peak and deceleration phases with a unique survey link to avoid duplication.

The acceleration, peak and deceleration surveys were developed iteratively by the study team and underpinned by evidence, or by consensus where necessary. Psychometric tools were selected by consensus of the study team, considering validity and utility of a range of standardised measures, balanced against the feasibility of delivery and completion by individuals likely to be working at maximum capacity.

Study data were collected and managed using Research Electronic Data Capture hosted at University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust. 26 27 Acceleration, peak and deceleration phases were defined a priori and adapted from the United States Centers for Disease Control 'Preparedness and Response Frameworks for Influenza Pandemics'. 28 For each survey, exact survey distribution dates were decided per protocol by team consensus according to available public health data on number of confirmed cases (acceleration phase; UK: 18 March 2020-26 March 2020, Ireland: 25 March 2020-02 April 2020), nationally available COVID-19 daily death rates (peak phase; UK: 21 April 2020-05 May 2020, Ireland: 28 April 2020-12 May 2020) and at 30 days after distribution of the peak phase survey (deceleration phase; UK: 03 June 2020–17 June 2020, Ireland: 10 June 2020–24 June 2020). Participants provided electronic informed consent for each survey.

Survey questions

Survey questions collected data for both the primary and secondary outcomes. Items included the General Health Questionnaire-12 (GHQ-12; provided with licence fee waived by GL Assessments, London, UK) for distress, and the Impact of Events Scale-Revised (IES-R; off licence) for trauma.

Personal and professional characteristics relating to participants' current role, and their preparedness and experiences during the pandemic were collected. These were used as secondary outcome measures and are provided in full in the protocol and online supplemental file 1.²⁴

Outcomes

There were two co-primary outcomes in this survey: psychological distress, and trauma, as defined by the GHQ-12 and the IES-R respectively.



Distress—GHQ-12

The GHQ-12 is a 12-item self-report measure devised to screen for psychological distress in the general population. The measure has high specificity and sensitivity, with reliability demonstrated across a range of populations. The GHQ-12 has been used in similar clinician-based studies measuring the psychological impact of infectious outbreaks and was chosen due to the brevity of the measure and its suitability for time-pressured medical staff. The GHQ-12 assesses current state and asks the participants to compare with usual state. GHQ-12 was asked at all three survey phases. Case-level distress is defined as a score of >3. The GHQ-12 was asked at all three survey phases.

Trauma—IES-R

The IES-R is a 22-item measure commonly used to measure post-traumatic stress following a prespecified traumatic incident and has been used to evaluate the impact of infectious disease outbreaks on hospital staff. It contains eight items that focus on 'intrusion', eight items on 'avoidance' and six items on 'hyperarousal'. The IES-R was used at the peak and deceleration survey phases. A score of 24 or above indicates a clinically significant traumatic stress response, a score above 33 indicates best cut-off for a diagnosis of 'probable post-traumatic stress disorder' (PTSD). 33 34

The secondary outcomes captured included personal and professional characteristics and their association with psychological distress and trauma. These personal and professional factors were identified through rapid literature review of high-quality systematic reviews and meta-analysis by experts in pandemic research. ¹ ²¹⁻²³ All factors identified as predictors of outcome were retained. This was supplemented by factors deemed of specific or emerging interest by the expert study steering committee. These were defined a priori in the study protocol, with the exception of ethnicity which was added during the peak survey due to the specific emergence of ethnicity as a potential marker of poor physical health outcomes. ²⁴

Statistical analysis

The statistical analysis is described in detail in the published protocol.²⁴ GHQ-12 items were reported using two methods. In the first method, item responses are assigned to the values 0, 0, 1, 1 (from the most positive to the most negative sentiment) and summed to form an aggregate score from zero (least distressed) to 12 (most distressed). Using this method, a score of >3 is indicative of case-level distress.³⁰ The second method assigns responses to 0, 1, 2, 3 (positive to negative sentiment) producing a score in the range 0-36, with zero representing the most healthy response (no psychological distress) and 36 the most unhealthy (maximal psychological distress). By presenting the two different scoring methods, we can both report the prevalence of case-level distress across the sample (0-0-1-1 scoring method) and more sensitively detect changes within the sample over the three phases of the pandemic (0-1-2-3 scoring method).

IES-R responses were analysed by assigning the responses to 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 (positive to negative) producing a score in the range 0 (no trauma) to 88 (maximal trauma). A score of 24 or above indicates a clinically significant traumatic stress response, a score above 33 indicates best cut-off for a diagnosis of 'probable PTSD'. ^{33 34}

The change over time in the GHQ-12 (phases I, II and III) and IES-R scores (phases II and III) among participants who responded to all three surveys was examined with repeated measures linear mixed-effect models, with survey phase as the single fixed effect and a participant-level random effect. These model describe the association between pandemic phase and psychological distress (GHQ-12) and trauma (IES-R).

To identify potential modifiers of the change in GHO-12-score or IES-R-score over time, further models were constructed for each of the measured personal and professional variables. Each model included the single variable of interest, survey phase, their interaction (to allow for a change in the association between the outcome and the variable over time) and a participant-level random effect as before. Responses where the variable value was missing were removed.³⁵ Nagakawa's marginal R² was used to measure the proportion of outcome variance accounted for by the model (excluding random effects, ie, when there is no a priori knowledge of the expected outcome for each participant). Values vary from 0 to 1, with 1 occurring when the model perfectly predicts the outcome, and 0 occurring when the model only returns the population average.

Finally, a comparison analysis done to compare distress and trauma outcomes in those who completed all three surveys against those who dropped out.

Software

All analyses and statistical outputs were produced in the statistical programming language

R and the 'tidyverse', 'lme4' and 'ggeffects' packages were used for the mixed-effects models. 36-38

Patient and public involvement

The study team contains frontline doctors from all represented specialties who undertook clinical work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This research is in line with recent RCEM research prioritisation and research recommendations.

Role of the funding source

The sponsor and funder had no role at any stage of this work.

RESULTS

Distribution across networks in the UK and Ireland generated 5440 responses. Follow-up responses from the peak and deceleration surveys were 3896 (71.6%) and 3079 (56.6%), respectively (figure 1). The final analysis cohort was 3079 participants, consisting of 1686 (54.8%) from

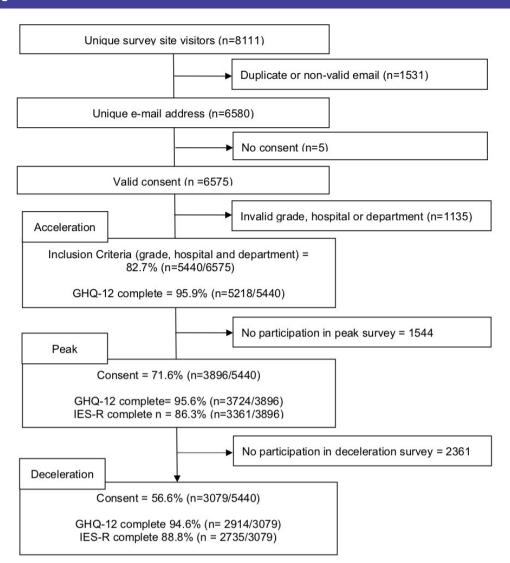


Figure 1 Participant flow chart. GHQ-12, General Health Questionnaire-12; IES-R, Impact of Events Scale-Revised.

EM, 1114~(36.2%) from anaesthetics and 526~(17.1%) from ICM, with some participants working across multiple specialties.

The demographic and professional characteristics of the respondent population are summarised in table 1. The cohort was 51.0% female, with a median age group of 36–40 years, and was representative of all professional grades. Respondents were 63.7% 'white British', 6.2% 'Irish' and '30.1% 'ethnic minority'; a full breakdown of ethnicity is provided in the online supplemental file 1 (https://github.com/wjchulme/TERN-CERA-study/tree/main/outputs). ^{39 40}

Primary outcomes

General Health Questionnaire-12

The prevalence of psychological distress, as defined by scores >3 on the GHQ-12 0-0-1-1 scoring method, was 44.7% (n=1334) in the acceleration survey, 36.9% (n=1098) at peak and 31.5% (n=918) during the deceleration phase. Median GHQ-12 scores were 13.0 (Q1–Q3, 10.0–17.0), 13.0 (Q1–Q3, 9.0–16.0) and 12.0 (Q1–Q3, 9.0–16.0), respectively (figure 2), and mean scores were

13.7, 13.2 and 12.9 across the acceleration, peak and deceleration surveys. Median distress scores were higher in the anaesthetic and ICM cohorts at the acceleration phase when compared with EM, but these decreased in all three groups throughout the first pandemic wave.

Impact of Events Scale-Revised

The prevalence of psychological trauma, as defined by a score of >24 on the IES-R, was 23.7% (n=647) at peak and 17.7% (n=484) at deceleration. The prevalence of 'probable PTSD', as defined by a score of >33 was 12.6% (n=343) at peak and 10.1% (n=276) at deceleration. During the peak phase, prevalence of trauma (>24) was 24.9% (n=378) in EM, 21.5% (n=204) in anaesthetics and 24.9% (n=117) in ICM. Prevalence of 'probable PTSD' (>33) was higher in EM (13.9%, n=211) and ICM (13.6%, n=64) when compared with anaesthetics (10.8%, n=103). During the deceleration phase, prevalence of trauma (>24) decreased to 19.7% (n=93) in ICM and 18.7% (n=285) in EM. 'Probable PTSD' (>33) decreased to 11.1% (n=169) in EM, compared with 10.8% (n=51) in ICM and 8.8% (n=85) in anaesthetics. The median IES-R



	All (n=3079)	Emergency medicine (n=1686)	Anaesthetics (n=1114)	Intensive care medicine (n=526)
ge (years)	All (II=3079)	(11=1000)	(11=1114)	(1=320)
20–25	111 (3.6%)	99 (5.9%)	3 (0.3%)	9 (1.7%)
26–30	737 (24.0%)	471 (28.0%)	184 (16.5%)	130 (24.8%)
31–35	682 (22.2%)	366 (21.7%)	242 (21.8%)	141 (26.9%)
36–40	497 (16.2%)	279 (16.6%)	177 (15.9%)	81 (15.5%)
41–45	406 (13.2%)	220 (13.1%)	156 (14.0%)	55 (10.5%)
46–50	282 (9.2%)	128 (7.6%)	133 (12.0%)	55 (10.5%)
51–55	203 (6.6%)	72 (4.3%)	121 (10.9%)	27 (5.2%)
56–60	107 (3.5%)	34 (2.0%)	63 (5.7%)	19 (3.6%)
>60	49 (1.6%)	14 (0.8%)	33 (3.0%)	7 (1.3%)
Missing	5	3	2	2
ender			- 1- 1 1: "	000 (52-22)
Male	1455 (48.8%)	774 (47.4%)	542 (50.1%)	272 (53.8%)
Female	1522 (51.0%)	855 (52.4%)	538 (49.7%)	233 (46.0%)
Other	7 (0.2%)	4 (0.2%)	2 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)
Missing	95	53	32	20
eniority				
Junior doctor	1089 (35.4%)	692 (41.0%)	276 (24.8%)	187 (35.6%)
Middle grade doctor	660 (21.4%)	357 (21.2%)	230 (20.6%)	129 (24.5%)
Other senior doctor	228 (7.4%)	156 (9.3%)	66 (5.9%)	34 (6.5%)
Senior doctor (consultant grade)	1102 (35.8%)	481 (28.5%)	542 (48.7%)	176 (33.5%)
eographical region				
East Midlands	177 (5.7%)	78 (4.6%)	84 (7.5%)	24 (4.6%)
East of England	172 (5.6%)	87 (5.2%)	70 (6.3%)	29 (5.5%)
London	454 (14.7%)	319 (18.9%)	103 (9.2%)	42 (8.0%)
North East	132 (4.3%)	68 (4.0%)	47 (4.2%)	30 (5.7%)
North West	334 (10.8%)	149 (8.8%)	141 (12.7%)	78 (14.8%)
South East	355 (11.5%)	229 (13.6%)	105 (9.4%)	48 (9.1%)
South West	430 (14.0%)	208 (12.3%)	167 (15.0%)	76 (14.4%)
West Midlands	183 (5.9%)	89 (5.3%)	78 (7.0%)	44 (8.4%)
Yorkshire and the Humber		90 (5.3%)	102 (9.2%)	55 (10.5%)
Northern Ireland	87 (2.8%)	41 (2.4%)	34 (3.1%)	20 (3.8%)
Scotland	253 (8.2%)	159 (9.4%)	80 (7.2%)	32 (6.1%)
Wales	92 (3.0%)	21 (1.2%)	62 (5.6%)	21 (4.0%)
Dublin	111 (3.6%)	82 (4.9%)	21 (1.9%)	16 (3.0%)
Rest of Ireland		66 (3.9%)	20 (1.8%)	
	87 (2.8%)	იი (ა.ყ <i>ო</i>)	∠∪ (1.6%)	11 (2.1%)
ation	2440 (70 50()	1017 /70 10/\	007 (00 50/)	406 (04 00/)
England	2449 (79.5%)	1317 (78.1%)	897 (80.5%)	426 (81.0%)
Northern Ireland	87 (2.8%)	41 (2.4%)	34 (3.1%)	20 (3.8%)
Ireland	198 (6.4%)	148 (8.8%)	41 (3.7%)	27 (5.1%)
Scotland	253 (8.2%)	159 (9.4%)	80 (7.2%)	32 (6.1%)
Wales	92 (3.0%)	21 (1.2%)	62 (5.6%)	21 (4.0%)
thnicity				
White British	1888 (63.7%)	949 (58.4%)	755 (70.3%)	338 (67.1%)
Irish	185 (6.2%)	118 (7.3%)	51 (4.7%)	33 (6.5%)

Continued

Table 1 Continued						
	All (n=3079)	Emergency medicine (n=1686)	Anaesthetics (n=1114)	Intensive care medicine (n=526)		
Redeployed						
Yes	249 (8.1%)	47 (2.8%)	196 (17.6%)	20 (3.8%)		
No	2824 (91.9%)	1636 (97.2%)	916 (82.4%)	504 (96.2%)		
Missing	6	3	2	2		

was highest in the peak survey at 13 (Q1–Q3, 5–24), and 9 (Q1–Q3, 2–19) in the deceleration survey (see figure 3, table 2).

Secondary outcomes

Risk factors for psychological distress (GHQ-12) and trauma (IES-R)

The overall strength of the relationship between participant factors and the two outcome measures, psychological distress and trauma, is summarised using Nagakawa's marginal R^2 (figures 4 and 5). The form of these univariable relationships is described graphically for the five variables with the highest R^2 values in figure 6A. Graphs for the remaining variables are reported in https://github.com/wjchulme/TERN-CERA-study/tree/main/outputs.

Personal and professional variables predicting distress (GHQ-12)

Worry of infecting family members due to clinical work (R^2 =0.06) and worry of personal infection (R^2 =0.05) were the two variables most strongly associated with distress. Figure 6A, B report the mean GHQ-12-score for the levels within this variable. Those that were 'extremely worried' about infecting family had a mean GHQ-12-modelled

score of 15.3 (95% CI 15.0 to 15.6), 15.1 (95% CI 14.8 to 15.5) and 14.6 (95% CI 14.3 to 15.0) during the acceleration, peak and deceleration, respectively, compared with mean scores of 13.7, 13.2 and 12.9, respectively for all participants. For those who were 'extremely worried' about personal infection, the mean GHQ-12 modelled score was 16.6 (95% CI 16.1 to 17.1) during the acceleration period, compared with 10.9 (95% CI 9.7 to 12.1) for those who were 'not worried at all' about being infected. For the mean GHQ-12 modelled score for each of the other variables, see the online link for the figures and values (https://github.com/wjchulme/TERN-CERA-study/tree/main/outputs).

Personal and professional variables predicting trauma (IES-R)

For trauma, worry of infection of family members due to clinical role had the highest R^2 value (R^2 =0.10). Mean IES-R modelled score for those who were 'extremely worried' about infecting family was 23.0 (95% CI 22.2 to 23.8) during the peak compared with 10.0 (95% CI 7.8 to 12.2) for those who were 'not worried at all' during the peak (figure 6C). This is significantly higher than the reported mean IES-R overall of 16.3.

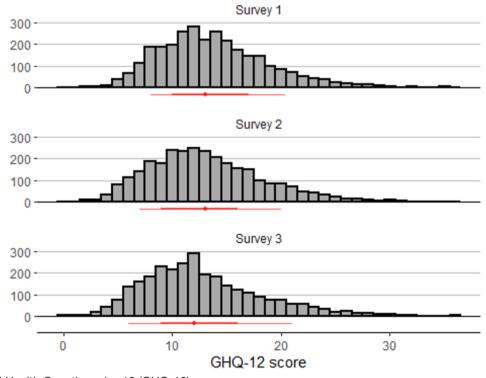


Figure 2 General Health Questionnaire-12 (GHQ-12) scores.

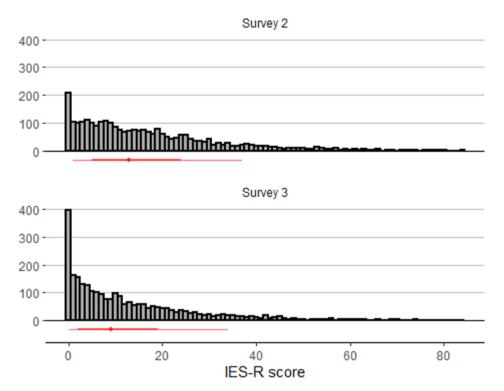


Figure 3 Impact of Events Scale-Revised (IES-R) scores.

Concern that COVID-19 would exacerbate symptoms of an established mental health condition (R^2 =0.06) had the second highest R^2 value. Peak IES-R mean modelled scores were 23.3 (95% CI 22.1 to 24.4) in those who agreed with this statement compared with 15.2 (95% CI 14.7 to 15.7) in those who disagreed. Deceleration mean IES-R modelled scores remained high for those who agreed, 22.3 (95% CI 21.1 to 23.6) (figure 6D).

Worry relating to personal infection due to clinical role (R^2 =0.06) was again strongly associated with trauma. Figure 6E displays the mean IES-R modelled scores and demonstrates the peak (24.0 (95% CI 22.5 to 25.4)) and deceleration (20.3 (95% CI 18.7 to 21.8)) outcomes in participants who were 'extremely worried' compared with those who were 'not worried at all' during the peak 11.3 (95% CI 8.6 to 14.0) and deceleration 10.0 (95% CI 8.0 to 12.0).

While ethnicity was not strongly associated with distress, it was a stronger predictor of trauma (R^2 =0.03). Mean modelled trauma scores for 'ethnic minority' participants at peak was 18.8 (95% CI 17.8 to 19.8), compared with 'white British' participants of 15.1 (95% CI 14.5 to 15.8) (Figure 6F). For the mean IES-R modelled scores for each of the other variables, see online link for the figures and values (https://github.com/wjchulme/TERN-CERA-study/tree/main/outputs).

Incidence of self-reported COVID-19 infection and isolation

By the deceleration phase of the pandemic, 6.9% (n=212) of respondents had received a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 and 0.4% (n=12) had been admitted to

hospital. A positive diagnosis did not have a significant effect in prediction of trauma (R^2 =0.014).

Regional and national variation of psychological distress and trauma

The region in which participants worked was more valuable for predicting trauma (R^2 =0.034), than for distress (R^2 =0.016). The mean modelled score of the different regions within the UK and Ireland on IES-R is demonstrated in figure 7.

Drop-out by GHQ-12 and IES-R

Response rate for the peak and deceleration surveys was 71.6% and 56.6%, respectively. There was no significant difference in either the GHQ-12 or IES-R scores between those who dropped out and those who remained in the study (see online supplemental file 1).

DISCUSSION

In this prospective longitudinal survey of 3079 frontline doctors, the prevalence of psychological distress reached 44.7% during the acceleration phase, and reached 23.7% for trauma during the peak phase—these figures were substantially higher than for the general population. For psychological distress, rates declined through peak and deceleration phases of the first wave to a level comparable to prepandemic levels. Prevalence of 'probable PTSD' was 12.6% at peak and 10.1% at deceleration, demonstrating a degree of natural recovery. However, just less than a quarter experienced

	All (n=3079)	Emergency medicine (n=1686)	Anaesthetics (n=1114)	Intensive care medicine (n=526)
Acceleration				
GHQ-12 (0123 score)				
Mean	13.7	13.3	14.4	14.0
Median (Q1, Q3)	13.0 (10.0, 17.0)	13.0 (10.0, 16.0)	14.0 (11.0, 18.0)	14.0 (10.2, 17.0)
GHQ-12 (0011 >3)				
>3	1334 (44.7%)	667 (40.7%)	542 (50.2%)	253 (49.6%)
N-Missing	92	48	34	16
Peak				
GHQ-12 (0123 score)				
Mean	13.2	12.8	13.6	13.6
Median (Q1, Q3)	13.0 (9.0, 16.0)	12.0 (9.0, 16.0)	13.0 (10.0, 17.0)	13.0 (10.0, 17.0)
GHQ-12 (0011 >3)				
>3	1098 (36.9%)	543 (33.3%)	454 (42.3%)	211 (41.1%)
N-Missing	105	56	40	13
IES-R score				
Mean	16.3	16.7	15.8	17.2
Median (Q1, Q3)	13.0 (5.0, 24.0)	13.0 (5.0, 24.0)	13.0 (6.0, 23.0)	14.0 (6.0, 24.0)
IES-R >24				
IES-R-0123 >24	647 (23.7%)	378 (24.9%)	204 (21.5%)	117 (24.9%)
IES-R >33				
IES-R-0123 >33	343 (12.6%)	211 (13.9%)	103 (10.8%)	64 (13.6%)
N-Missing	349	165	163	57
Deceleration				
GHQ-12 (0123 score)				
Mean	12.9	12.8	13.0	13.1
Median (Q1, Q3)	12.0 (9.0, 16.0)	12.0 (9.0, 16.0)	12.0 (9.0, 16.0)	12.0 (9.0, 17.0)
GHQ-12 (0011 >3)				
>3	918 (31.5%)	486 (30.2%)	340 (32.6%)	172 (34.6%)
N-Missing	165	78	71	29
IES-R score				
Mean	13.2	13.6	12.6	14.2
Median (Q1, Q3)	9.0 (2.0, 19.0)	9.0 (2.0, 20.0)	8.0 (2.0, 18.0)	9.0 (3.0, 20.0)
IES-R >24				
IES-R-0123 >24	484 (17.7%)	285 (18.7%)	159 (16.5%)	93 (19.7%)
IES-R >33				
IES-R-0123 >33	276 (10.1%)	169 (11.1%)	85 (8.8%)	51 (10.8%)
N-Missing	344	164	153	53

GHQ-12, General Health Questionnaire-12; IES-R, Impact of Events Scale-Revised.

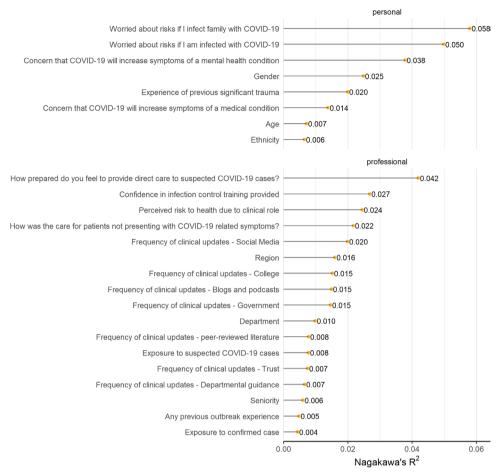
subthreshold post-trauma symptoms 30 days following the pandemic peak.

Personal factors were the most powerful predictors of both psychological distress and trauma. The most significant predictors relate to familial safety, personal safety and established mental health conditions. These findings support aggregated data in recent reviews and metanalyses on the key predictors of psychological distress in disaster or infectious outbreak settings. However, it cannot be ignored that the psychological harm associated

with both familial and personal safety may potentially be explained by the perceived (and reported) inadequate provision of PPE to frontline workers. ^{45 46} This is an area where improvements must be made in order to mitigate against future physical and psychological harms that novel pathogens present.

While most findings are consistent with existing research, our study also identifies ethnicity as a novel, key predictor of trauma. ^{47–49} This is unsurprising given higher rates of reported mortality in ethnic minority groups with

Variation in GHQ-12 explained by each model



General Health Questionnaire-12 (GHQ-12) variance explained model.

this particular pandemic.⁵⁰ However, the nature and direction of relationship between these risk factors and poorer outcomes is undoubtedly complex. Ongoing work continues to seek further understanding in this area.⁵¹

Rates of trauma were high across all three specialty groups. One in four doctors met the clinical threshold, with the highest rates seen in EM and ICM. This is likely explained by their clinical roles during the pandemic, in which they were exposed to a higher volume of COVID-19positive patients compared with anaesthetic colleagues. However, it is important to note that the rate of trauma seen in anaesthetics was also of concern. At the deceleration phase, EM doctors had higher rates of 'probable PTSD' (IES-R >33), whereas ICM doctors had a higher prevalence of trauma (IES-R >24). This may reflect the later peak in intensive care units when compared with EM⁵² or the potential impact of downstream mortality. Further work should explore long-term outcomes in all cohorts.

It is evident from our longitudinal data that vulnerability to poorer psychological outcomes may be predicted by certain characteristics and therefore potentially mitigated through targeted intervention. Studies examining psychiatric outcomes in SARS reflect that psychological distress is likely to persist. Identification of those likely to

experience adversity, and interventions to mitigate these, must begin now. 8 10 53 54 Without appropriate support and intervention doctors are likely to experience long-term effects on mental health, resulting in increased sickness rates, absenteeism, impaired performance at work and the development of physical health problems.^{8 10} 12 55 56 Therefore, the early identification of ongoing psychological distress will be pivotal in influencing the long-term mental health of frontline workers. Based on research from COVID-19 and other pandemics, we can be certain that rates and severity of distress will rise following this second wave of the pandemic. We now know that doctors are working on the frontline while carrying the heavy burden of fear of infecting themselves, or critically, family members, while some continue to battle high levels of psychological distress. This distress was evident in the lead up to the first peak, but sustained well beyond this time point. Doctors are continuing to work in very highly pressured, high-risk environments with a significant proportion doing so despite clinical levels of distress. Policymakers and professional bodies should urgently seek to develop an overarching 'best practice' pathway to support all healthcare staff in these environments.

While various interventions are recommended specifically for frontline workers there is common agreement in

Variation in IES-R explained by each model

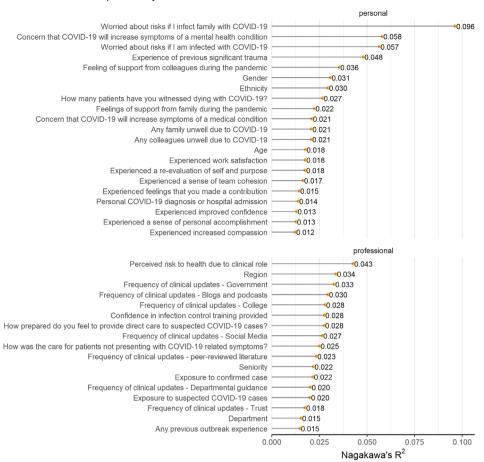


Figure 5 Impact of Events Scale-Revised (IES-R) variance explained model.

the necessity for basic psychosocial interventions (ie, sleep hygiene, exercise, health behaviour) to facilitate return to equilibrium, 57-60 yet these measures are not always sufficient to ameliorate persistent distress. It is crucial that an overarching 'best practice' pathway and package of care is implemented to help support staff now and for the future. This must be evidence-based, multilevel, starting with the 'individual' level and moving though to 'organisational' level intervention, including (a) mobilisation of formal peer and organisational support structures, (b) mechanisms for recognising and monitoring distress and (c) offer clear referral pathways to evidencebased interventions. Access to appropriate psychological support is imperative; cognitive behavioural therapy is recommended by the National Institute for health and Care Excellence to ameliorate anxiety, depression and PTSD⁶¹ 62; however further work is needed to ensure these interventions this are suitably tailored to the practicalities of shift work and the unique experiences faced by frontline clinicians. With this, there is a responsibility to ensure equality in the provision of care and pathways to access, for this is likely to be necessary for many.

Strengths and weaknesses

This is a large-scale longitudinal study examining prevalence of psychological distress in doctors in the UK and Ireland, offering a robust and reliable measure of the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of frontline doctors, and allows comparison with other pandemic mental health trajectories. Due to the three-phase prospective design and extent of data collected, findings from this study can be reliably used to inform the development of preparations and interventions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and future infectious disease outbreaks on mental health in frontline doctors.

However, there are limitations that may influence our findings. The reported rates of distress and trauma do not take account of any pre-existing psychiatric morbidity or historical factors that may predispose doctors to developing mental health difficulties in these circumstances. 63-66 Data were gathered with regard to historical trauma, one of the most significant predictors of mental health difficulties long-term. Furthermore, while the sample size is large, any self-reporting measure is open to selection bias. This may have resulted in a biased sample with particularly high or low levels of distress and trauma. However, in the follow-up surveys (peak and deceleration) there was no difference in acceleration distress or trauma scores between those who dropped out and those who continued; yet we are unable to comment on those who declined to participate. While the two primary outcome measures, GHQ-12 and IES-R, have good psychometric properties, there is a concern that survey data may overstate the

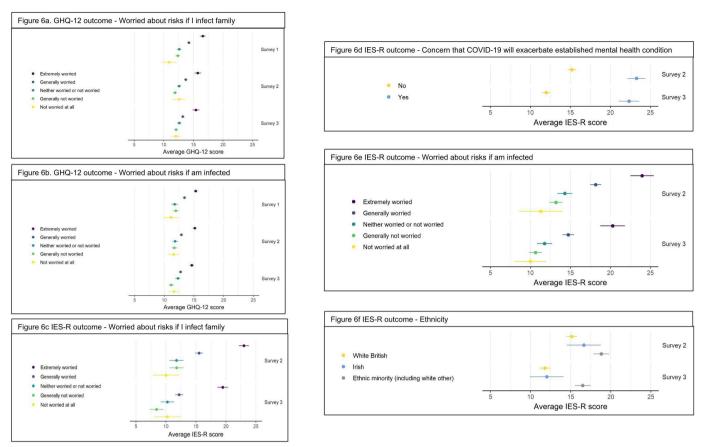


Figure 6 (A)-(F) General Health Questionnaire-12 (GHQ-12) and Impact of Events Scale-Revised (IES-R) modelled outcomes.



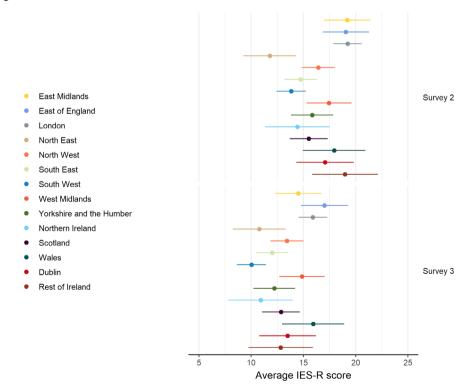


Figure 7 Impact of Events Scale-Revised (IES-R) outcome-region.

prevalence of cases when compared with formal diagnostic interviews such as the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I Disorders; this is difficult to implement in such large samples, thus we cautiously avoid inference of definite diagnosis.

While the protocol was closely adhered to, variation in regional peaks may have influenced accurate capturing of psychological distress and trauma rates. It is noted that while the acceleration phase is study 'baseline', as the pandemic was present and proliferating in the UK at the acceleration phase, it more accurately represents the initial stress associated with a rapidly spreading highly infectious virus of unknown pathogenic origins and no effective treatment; a reasonable response to the context. Future research should continue to follow frontline doctors through the pandemic and beyond, to assess whether the mental health trajectories are similar to other infectious disease pandemics.

CONCLUSION

Our findings reflect a pattern of elevated distress during the acceleration and peak phase of the current pandemic, some degree of natural recovery and a significant minority continuing to experience residual ongoing distress. It is essential that policymakers and professional bodies seek to prevent future adverse effects through provision of vital equipment to mitigate both physical and psychological harm and the development of clear pathways to effective psychological care. Moving forward, it is essential the COVID-19 pandemic serves as a foundation for significant development and growth in all of these areas and that there is ongoing assessment of the psychological health of healthcare workers both during the pandemic and beyond.

Author affiliations

¹TERN, The Royal College of Emergency Medicine, London, UK

²Emergency Department, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK

³Department of Psychology, University of Bath, Bath, UK

⁴Statistical Consultant, Oxford, UK

⁵Department of Anaesthesia, North Bristol NHS Trust, Westbury on Trym, UK

⁶Department of Intensive Care, Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust, Salford, UK

⁷Faculty of Health and Applied Science, University of the West of England, Bristol, UK

*Emergency Department, Plymouth Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Plymouth, UK

⁹Urgent and Emergency Care, University of Plymouth, Plymouth, UK

¹⁰The University of Manchester, Manchester, UK

¹¹School of Medicine, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

¹²Emergency Department, Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin, Crumlin, Ireland

¹³Emergency Department, University Hospital Waterford, Waterford, Ireland

¹⁴Emergency Department, St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin, Ireland

¹⁵Emergency Department, Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown, Blanchardstown, Ireland

¹⁶College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland, Dublin, Ireland

¹⁷Emergency Department, North Bristol NHS Trust, Westbury on Trym, UK

Twitter Robert Hirst @hirstposition, Mark David Lyttle @mdlyttle, Katie Samuel @katie_samuel_, Michael Barrett @PEMDublin and Edward Carlton @eddcarlton

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M Williams; A Charlton; L Somerset; C Munday; A Turner; R Sainsbury; E Williams; S Patil; R Stewart; M Winstanley; N Tambe; C Magee; D Raffo; D Mawhinney; B Taylor; T Hussan; G Pells; F Barham; F Wood; C Szekeres; R Greenhalgh; S Marimuthu; R Macfarlane; M Alex; B Shrestha; L Stanley; J Gumley; K Thomas; M Anderson; C Weegenaar; J Lockwood; T Mohamed; S Ramraj; M Mackenzie; A Robertson; W Niven; M Patel; S Subramaniam; C Holmes; S Bongale; U Bait; S Nagendran; S Rao; F Mendes; P Singh; S Subramaniam; T Baron; C Ponmani; M Depante; R Sneep; A Brookes; S Williams; A Rainey; J Brown; N Marriage; S Manou; S Hart; M Elsheikh; L Cocker; MH Elwan; K L Vincent; C Nunn; N Sarja; M Viegas; E Wooffinden; C Revnard: N Cherian: A Da-Costa: S Duckitt: J Bailev: L How: T Hine: F Ihsan: H Abdullah; K Bader; S Pradhan; M Manoharan; C Battle; L Kehler; R Muswell; M Bonsano; J Evans; E Christmas; K Knight; L O'Rourke; K Adeboye; K Iftikhar; R Evans; R Darke; R Freeman; E Grocholski; K Kaur; H Cooper; M Mohammad; L Harwood; K Lines; C Thomas; D Ranasinghe; S Hall; J Wright; S Hall; N Ali; J Hunt; H Ahmad; C Ward; M Khan; K Holzman; J Ritchie; A Hormis; R Hannah; A Corfield; J Maney; D Metcalfe; S Timmis; C Williams; R Newport; D Bawden; A Tabner; H Malik; C Roe; D McConnell; F Taylor; R Ellis; S Morgan; L Barnicott; S Foster; J Browning; L McCrae; E Godden; A Saunders; A Lawrence-Ball; R House; J Muller; I Skene; M Lim; H Millar; A Rai; K Challen; S Currie; M Elkanzi; T Perry; W Kan; L Brown; M Cheema: A Clarey; A Gulati; K Webster; A Howson; R Doonan; C Magee; A Trimble; C O'Connell; R Wright; E Colley; C Rimmer; S Pintus; H Jarman; V Worsnop; S Collins; M Colmar; N Masood; R McLatchie; A Peasley; S Rahman; N Mullen; L Armstrong; A Hay; R Mills; J Lowe; H Raybould; A Ali; P Cuthbert; S Taylor; V Talwar; Z Al-Janabi; C Leech; J Turner; L McKechnie; B Mallon; J McLaren; Y Moulds; L Dunlop; FM Burton; S Keers; L Robertson; D Craver; N Moultrie; O Williams; S Purvis; M Clark; C Davies: S Foreman: C Ngua: D George: J Morgan: D George: N Hoskins: J Frver: R Wright; L Frost; P Ellis; A Mackay; K Gray; M Jacobs; I Musliam; Veettil Asif; P Amiri; S Shrivastava; F Raza; S Wilson; M Riyat; H Knott; M Ramazany; S Langston; N Abela; L Robinson; D Maasdorp; H Murphy; H Edmundson; R Das; C Orjioke; D Worley; W Collier; J Everson; N Maleki; A Stafford; S Gokani; M Charalambos; A Olajide; C Bi; J Ng; S Naeem; J Anandarajah; A Hill; C Boulind-TERNR O'Sullivan; S Gilmartin; S Uí Bhroin; P Fitzpatrick; A Patton; M JeePoh Hock; S Graham; S Kukaswadia; C Prendergast; A Ahmed; C Dalla Vecchia; J Lynch; M Grummell; I Grossi; B MacManus; RAFT/TRIC/SATURNA- K Samuel; A Boyle; A Waite; B Johnson;

Contributors The corresponding author attests that all listed authors meet authorship criteria and that no others meeting the criteria have been omitted. TR conceived the idea for the study. TR, EC, JD, ML and BG were responsible for the initial study design, which was refined with the help of KS, CR, RH, MB, DH and WH. Expert advice on psychological assessment scores was provided by JD. WH provided the statistical plan. TR and DH lead the dissemination of the study in UK Adult Emergency Departments (ED), ML lead the dissemination of the study in UK and Ireland Paediatric EDs, KS lead the dissemination of the study in Ireland EDs, along with JC, JF and EU. JV lead the dissemination in Ireland ICUs and Anaesthetic Departments. TR coordinated study set-up, finalisation of the study surveys and finalisation of study protocols. All authors contributed to the final study design and protocol development, critically revised successive drafts of the manuscript and approved the final version. The study management group is responsible for the conduct of the study.

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the study senior authors. Statistical code and study figures are available directly from: https://qithub.com/wjchulme/TERN-CERA-study/tree/main/outputs

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ORCID iDs

Tom Roberts http://orcid.org/0000-0003-4991-974X

Mark David Lyttle http://orcid.org/0000-0002-8634-7210

Michael Barrett http://orcid.org/0000-0003-1775-8347

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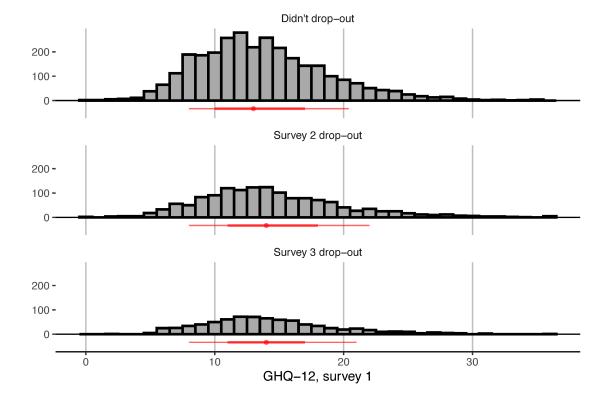
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CERA Online Supplement - Content

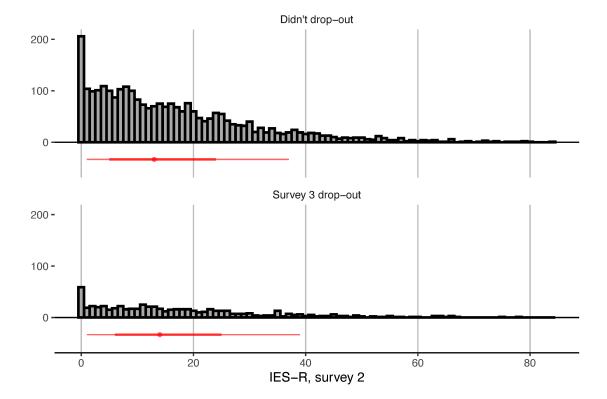
Page 2 - 3: Drop out GHQ-12 and IES-R for those participants who did not complete all surveys compared to those who did

Page 4 till end: CERA survey 1,2 and 3

Drop out rate for surveys 2 and 3 by survey 1 GHQ-12 score



Drop out rate for survey 3 by survey 2 IES-R score



CERA Survey

Page 1

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions. This survey will take less than 4 minutes.

Thank you for taking the time to consider taking part in the COVID-19 Emergency Response Assessment (CERA Study).

It is important that you read this information, so that you understand the purpose of the study and how we will treat your data.

What is the CERA study?

The CERA study consists of three questionnaires that will be conducted during the current COVID-19 outbreak. The CERA study will assess how you are feeling about your general health, anxiety levels, and mood at three points in time. Separate questionnaires will be issued before, during, and after the peak of the current COVID-19 outbreak.

What is the purpose of the CERA study?

This study will provide information regarding how staff working in Emergency care settings are feeling whilst working during the current COVID-19 outbreak. Full analysis of data will help identify how emergency staff can be better supported during future disease outbreaks.

Who has organised the CERA study?

The CERA study is led by the Trainee Emergency Research Network (TERN), in association with the Paediatric Emergency Research in the UK and Ireland (PERUKI) and Research and Audit Federation of Trainees (RAFT). The CERA study is supported by the UK Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM).

Has the CERA study received external approval?

Yes, the CERA study has received University Ethics Approval from the University of Bath (Ref: 4421). The CERA study has been approved by the Health Research Authority (HRA).

What will happen if I take part?

There will be three separate e-surveys to complete, including this one. Each survey is completed online, and will take between about 3 and 5 minutes. Surveys will be issued at different times.

You be required to submit your email address as part of this survey, which will allow us to invite you to participate in the other two surveys. You are not required to submit any additional personal identifiable information. We will remove your email address from data, prior to analysis.

Are there any potential risks?

Some of the issues explored will be sensitive, and we understand that this may be a challenging time for you. We have included some information about sources that you might wish to contact within this survey.

How will you protect my data and ensure confidentiality?

North Bristol NHS Trust is supporting this study and will be responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The data collected will be stored for 5 years after the study has finished.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. We will collect only personal identifiable information possible.

This study is also compliant with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Do I have to take part?

You are under no obligation to take part, and you may withdraw at any point without giving a reason.

What will happen to my data if I withdraw my involvement?

If you choose to withdraw your involvement in the study, any results that you have submitted will be kept for analysis. However, you will not be required to input further into the study. We will need to use information from you for this research project. This information will include your email address. People will use this information to do the research or to check your records to make sure that the research is being done properly. Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study.

What are your choices about how your information is used?

You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have.

Where can you find out more about how your information is used? You can find out more about how we use your information ₀₇ลุt₂พูพูพู .hṛลฺ₅nhs.uk/information-about-patients/

projectredcap.org



- our leaflet available from www.nbt.nhs.uk/PatientResearchdata
- by asking one of the research team
- by contacting Helen Williamson (Head of Information Governance) at helen.e.williamson@nbt.nhs.uk, or by ringing 0117 41 44767.

Who can I contact if I have any guestions?

Please contact Dr Tom Roberts (Chief Investigator) at tern@rcem.ac.uk if you have any questions.

What to do if you need support about wellbeing

The following organisations can help provide advice and support with regards to your wellbeing.

- -Your occupational health department (contact details available via your employer)
- -Your general practitioner
- https://anaesthetists.org/Home/Wellbeing-support
- -BMA Counselling Service (24 Hours). Telephone 0330 123 1245. (Note that you do not have to be a member of the BMA to access this service)
- -The Samaritans (24 Hours). Telephone 116 123.

For the attention of Irish Clinicians:

The following organisations can help provide advice and support with regards to your wellbeing in the Republic of Ireland.

- -HSE Workplace Health and Wellbeing Unit Contact Dr Lynda Sisson HR.wellbeing@hse.ie
- -The Employee Assistance and Counselling Service (EAC)
- -Pieta House www.pieta.ie or call 188 247 247
- -Your Mental Health www.yourmentalhealth.ie
- -Practitioner Health (Ireland). Telephone 01 297 0356

Specific Consent statement for the Republic of Ireland

I consent to the processing of my personal data as set out in the information leaflet for the research purposes that are part of the CERA study - Consent using the button in the next question.

Do you want to read the participant information sheet now?	○ Yes ○ No	

If you would like to download the patient information sheet to read later, please download the link below.

[Attachment: "CERA PIS V 1.1.docx"]

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Consent and Identifiers	
By checking this box, I certify that I am at least 18 years old and that I give my consent freely to participate in this study.	☐ I consent
What is your e-mail address?	
(This will only be used for the delivery of survey 2 + 3, which you will receive over the coming months)	

REDCap°

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About you

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REDCap[®]

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What is the name of the hospital where you currently work?	Aberdeen Royal InfirmaryAddenbrooke's Cambridge University Hospital
Please type and your hospital should appear, if not	○ Aintree University Hospital
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	Chelsea & Westminster Hospital
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	Cork University Hospital
	Countess of Chester NHS Foundation Trust
	County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
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	 Guy's & St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust
	 Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust
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	Homerton University Hospital
	 HSE Ireland - Cork University Hospital
	 Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and Calderdale Royal
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Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton
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Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital
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North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke
North Manchester General Hospital
North Middlesex Hospital
North Tees and Hartlepool Hospitals NHS Foundation
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Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children
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Royal Bolton Foundation Trust
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Roberts T, et al. BMJ Open 2021; 11:e049680. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2021-049680

	NHS Trust Tameside and Glossop The Balfour , Orkney The Horton General Hospital The Porch Surgery The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn The Royal Oldham Hospital University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay Foundation trust Walton centre Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Wasall Manor Hospital West cumberland hospital West Middlesex University Hospital West Suffolk hospital West Suffolk hospital Western General Hospital Edinburgh Wirral University Teaching Hospital Worcestershire Royal Hospital Worthing Hospital Worthing Hospital Wirjhtington Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust Ysbyty Gwynedd University Hospital Hairmyres
You have selected other, please specify.	
What is your professional grade?	GP Trainee ST1 ST2 ST3 ST4 ST5 ST6 ST7 ST8 F1 F2 Clinical Fellow (F2-ST3 Level) Clinical Fellow (>=ST4 Level) Consultant Associate Specialist Staff Grade CESR Doctor GP Other
You have selected other, please specify.	
What is your gender?	 Male Female Other Prefer not to say

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How old are you?	 ○ 20-25 ○ 26-30 ○ 31-35 ○ 36-40 ○ 41-45 ○ 46-50 ○ 51-55 ○ 56-60 ○ 61-65 ○ 66-70 ○ >70
What is your 'parent speciality'?	 Emergency Medicine Anaesthetics Intensive Care Medicine Paediatrics General Practice Surgery Foundation Programme Acute Internal Medicine Other
What is your 'parent speciality'?	☐ Emergency Medicine ☐ Anaesthetics ☐ Intensive Care Medicine ☐ Paediatrics ☐ General Practice ☐ Surgery ☐ Foundation Programme ☐ Acute Internal Medicine ☐ Other
You have selected other, please specify.	
In what Department were you working as of March 1st 2020?	 Emergency Department (adult or paediatric) Anaesthetic Department (adult or paediatric) Intensive Care Department (adult or paediatric) Acute Medical Unit Hospital ward (adult or paediatric) Other
In what Department were you working as of March 1st 2020? Select all that apply	 ☐ Emergency Department (adult or paediatric) ☐ Anaesthetic Department (adult or paediatric) ☐ Intensive Care Department (adult or paediatric) ☐ Acute Medical Unit ☐ Hospital ward (adult or paediatric) ☐ Other
You selected other, in which Department where you working as of March 1st 2020?	
Have you been deployed to a different clinical area as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak?	 Yes No

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Emergency Department (adult or paediatric) Where have you been redeployed to? Anaesthetic Department (adult or paediatric)
 Intensive Care Department (adult or paediatric)
 Acute Medical Unit
 Hospital ward (adult or paediatric) Other You have selected other, please specify. How satisfied are you with this redeployment? O Very dissatisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
Somewhat satisfied Very satisfied $\hfill \square$ None of the below Have you previously provided direct clinical care to any patients affected by these infectious disease ☐ Ebola virus outbreaks? (please select all that apply) ☐ MERS-CoV ☐ SARS Chikungunya Cholera Influenza (swine, avian, zoonotic) Zika virus Other You have selected other, please specify.

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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and General Training							
What training have you received in regards to personal protective equipment (PPE) since the COVID-19 outbreak was declared? (select all that apply)							
	No training	Formal instructional video	Written instruction	Simulation training	Departmental guidance	Other	
Donning and doffing (gloves, gown, facemask, eye protection)							
Formal fit testing for mask							
PPE training for exposure to aerosol generating procedure (e.g. intubation)							
Other. Please specify.							
If you have had any further PPE transpecify							
What practical education have you received in regards to the clinical care of patients presenting with suspected/diagnosed COVID-19?				on training of	a possible case a case requiring a	aerosol	
You selected other. Please specify							

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How frequently do you acce		ollowing sou	rces of i	nformatio	n regardi	ng policy a	nd	
clinical aspects of COVID-19	? Hourly	Up to twice	Daily	Several	Weekly	Less than	Never	
	Hourry	a day	Daily	times a week	Weekly	weekly	Nevel	
Government Guidance	\circ	\circ	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ	\circ	
College Guidance	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Trust Guidance	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Departmental guidance	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Social Media	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Online blogs and podcasts	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ	
Peer review literature	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
How confident do you feel in the infection control training that has been provided to you?			 Not confident at all Somewhat not confident Neither not confident or confident Somewhat confident Very confident 					
How prepared do you feel to provide direct care to suspected cases?			 Completely unprepared Somewhat unprepared Neither unprepared or prepared Somewhat prepared Very prepared 					
How do you feel the care received by patients who are NOT presenting with either symptoms or a diagnosis of COVID-19 is?			 Significantly worse than before Covid-19 Slightly worse than before Covid-19 The same as before Covid-19 Slightly better than before Covid-19 Significantly better than before Covid-19 					
How many suspected cases of COVID-19 have you had direct clinical contact with since March 1st 2020?			 ○ 0 ○ 1-5 ○ 6-10 ○ 11-15 ○ 16-20 ○ 21-25 ○ 26-30 ○ 31-35 ○ > 36 					
As far as you are aware, how many of these suspected cases have turned out to be confirmed cases of COVID-19?			0 1 0 2 0 2 0 3	5				

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Personal Factors	
Are you concerned that the exposure to the COVID-19 outbreak may increase symptoms of any established medical health conditions?	YesNoPrefer not to discloseI do not have an established medical condition
Are you concerned that the exposure to the COVID-19 outbreak may increase symptoms of any established mental health conditions?	YesNoPrefer not to discloseI do not have an established mental health condition
I feel that my personal health is at risk during the COVID-19 outbreak due to my clinical role?	○ Strongly disagree○ Disagree○ Neither agree nor disagree○ Agree○ Strongly agree
How worried are you about the potential risks if you were to become infected with COVID-19?	 Extremely worried Generally worried Neither worried or not worried Generally not worried Not worried at all
How worried are you about the potential risks to your family. loved ones or others due to your clinical role in the COVID-19 outbreak?	 Extremely worried Generally worried Neither worried or not worried Generally not worried Not worried at all

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PERA Questions: Self-isolate	
Have you had to self-isolate?	○ Yes ○ No
For what reason did you have to self-isolate?	 □ Personal symptoms □ Personal diagnosis of COVID-19 □ Symptoms of a member of the household □ Exposure to a positive case of COVID-19 in the work environment □ Exposure to a positive case of COVID-19 in your personal environment □ Other (eg return from travel to high risk area)
Other - please specify	
How many clinical shifts in your rota have you missed due to self-isolation?	○ 0 ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5-7 ○ 8-10 ○ >10
Date survey completed	

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CERA Survey 2

Page 1

Thank you for taking the time to complete the CERA survey part 2.

This is part 2 of the CERA study. Thank you for taking the time to fill out the questions below. It will take between 5 to 7 minutes.

We recommend using either a tablet or computer screen but the questions are accessible via mobile phones.

The Impact of Events Scale - Revised (page 3) should be answered in reference to the COVID-19 peak and your feelings over the last 7 days. All other questions should be answered in reference to the COVID-19 peak and your feelings over the past few weeks.

The definition of COVID-19 "peak", for the purpose of this study, uses nationally reported hospital death figures. This has been estimated between April 10th - April 15th. It is understood this will vary regionally.

Finally, we understand that throughout the COVID-19 pandemic many of you may have experienced very challenging events both in your personal and professional lives. We thank you for taking the time to complete this study and hope it offers an anonymised opportunity to report the psychological impact of this pandemic. If you need any further support there are details highlighted in the participant information leaflet that can be downloaded below.

If you want to download the participant information leaflet, which outlines the study and available support, please download below.

[Attachment: "CERA PIS V 1.1.docx"]			
I consent to taking part in CERA survey 2.	○ Yes ○ No		
What is your ethnicity?	English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British Irish Gypsy or Irish Traveller Any other White background White and Black Caribbean White and Asian Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background Indian Pakistani Bangladeshi Chinese Any other Asian background African Caribbean Any other Black / African / Caribbean background Arab Any other ethnic group Prefer not to disclose		

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Impact of Events Scale - Revised

Below is a list of difficulties people sometimes have after stressful life events. Please read each item, and then indicate how distressing each difficulty has been for you **DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS with respect to the COVID-19 PANDEMIC PEAK.**

How much have you been distressed or bothered by these difficulties?

	Not at all	A little bit	Moderately	Quite a bit	Extremely
Any reminder brought back feelings about it	\circ	0	0	0	0
I had trouble staying asleep	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Other things kept me thinking about it	\circ	0	\circ	0	0
I felt irritable and angry	\circ	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ
I avoided letting myself get upset when I thought about it or was reminded of it	0	0	0	0	0
I thought about it when I didn't mean to	0	0	0	0	0
I felt as if it hadn't happened or wasn't real	0	0	0	0	0
I stayed away from reminders of	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
itictures about it popped into my head	0	0	0	0	0
I was jumpy and easily startled	\circ	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ
I tried not to think about it	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
I was aware that I still had a lot of feelings about it, but I didn't deal with them	0	0	0	0	0
My feelings about it were kind of numb	0	0	0	0	0
I found myself acting or feeling like I was back at that time	0	0	0	0	0
I had trouble falling asleep	\circ	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ
I had waves of strong feelings about it	\circ	0	\circ	0	0
I tried to remove it from my memory	0	0	0	0	0
I had trouble concentrating	\circ	\circ	0	\circ	\circ
Reminders of it caused me to have physical reactions, such as sweating, trouble breathing, nausea or a pounding heart	0	0	0	0	0

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I had dreams about it	\circ	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	
I felt watchful and on-guard	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	
I tried not to talk about it	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	

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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and General Training								
What training have you received in regards to personal protective equipment (PPE) since the								
COVID-19 outbreak was declared? (select all that apply)								
	No training	Formal instructional video	Written instruction	Simulation training	Departmental guidance	Other		
Donning and doffing (gloves, gown, facemask, eye protection)								
Formal fit testing for mask								
PPE training for exposure to aerosol generating procedure (e.g. intubation)								
What practical education have you to the clinical care of patients pressuspected/diagnosed COVID-19? (s	 None Simulation training of a possible case Simulation training of a case requiring aerosol generating procedure Other 							
You have selected other, please sp	pecify.							
How confident do you feel in the infection control training that has been provided to you?			 Not confident at all Somewhat not confident Neither not confident or confident Somewhat confident Very confident 					
How prepared do you feel to provide direct care to suspected cases?			 Completely unprepared Somewhat unprepared Neither unprepared or prepared Somewhat prepared Very prepared 					
How do you feel the care received by patients who are NOT presenting with either symptoms or a diagnosis of COVID-19 is?			 Significantly worse than before Covid-19 Slightly worse than before Covid-19 The same as before Covid-19 Slightly better than before Covid-19 Significantly better than before Covid-19 					
Have you been deployed to a different clinical area as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak?			○ Yes ○ No					
Where have you been redeployed to?			 Emergency Department (adult or paediatric) Anaesthetic Department (adult or paediatric) Intensive Care Department (adult or paediatric) Acute Medical Unit Hospital ward (adult or paediatric) Other 					
You have selected other, please sp	pecify.							

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How satisfied are you with this redeployment?	 Very dissatisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied Somewhat satisfied Very satisfied
In survey 1, you stated you had been re-deployed. How satisfied are you with this redeployment now?	 Very dissatisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied Somewhat satisfied Very satisfied I am no longer re-deployed
How many suspected cases of COVID-19 have you had direct clinical contact with since March 1st 2020?	○ 0 ○ 1-5 ○ 6-10 ○ 11-15 ○ 16-20 ○ 21-25 ○ 26-30 ○ 31-35 ○ > 36
As far as you are aware, how many of these suspected cases have turned out to be confirmed cases of COVID-19?	○ 0 ○ 1-5 ○ 6-10 ○ 11-15 ○ 16-20 ○ 21-25 ○ 26-30 ○ 31-35 ○ > 36
How many patients have you witnessed dying with COVID-19?	0 1-5 6-10 11-15 16-20 21-25 26-30 31-35 > 36

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Personal Factors	
Do you have a pre-existing physical health condition(s) that may increase your chances of suffering more severe COVID-19 disease?	YesNoPrefer not to disclose
Are you concerned that the exposure to the COVID-19 outbreak may increase symptoms of any established mental health conditions?	 Yes No Prefer not to disclose I do not have an established mental health condition
Over the course of your life prior to the recent pandemic, have you experienced what you would characterise as a significant trauma?	○ Yes ○ No
During the COVID-19 pandemic, have you felt at high risk of dying/death?	○ Yes ○ No
I feel that my personal health is at risk during the COVID-19 outbreak due to my clinical role?	Strongly disagreeDisagreeNeither agree nor disagreeAgreeStrongly agree
How worried are you about the potential risks if you were to become infected with COVID-19?	 Extremely worried Generally worried Neither worried or not worried Generally not worried Not worried at all
How worried are you about the potential risks to your family, loved ones or others due to your clinical role in the COVID-19 outbreak?	 Extremely worried Generally worried Neither worried or not worried Generally not worried Not worried at all
Have any of your family, friends or loved ones become unwell or died due to COVID-19 or its complications? (select all that apply)	 □ Unwell at home □ Unwell and required ward level/HDU hospital treatment □ Unwell and required ICU treatment □ Died □ None of the above
Have any of your colleagues become unwell or died due to COVID-19 or its complications? (select all that apply)	 □ Unwell at home □ Unwell and required ward level/HDU hospital treatment □ Unwell and required ICU treatment □ Died □ None of the above
In the last 2 weeks I have felt well supported by friends and family	Strongly disagreeDisagreeNeither agree nor disagreeAgreeStrongly agree

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In the last 2 weeks I have felt well supported by the senior clinical leadership team	 Strongly disagree Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Strongly agree 	

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Personal Coronavirus	
Have you received a positive diagnosis of Coronavirus during this pandemic?	○ Yes ○ No
Have you been admitted to hospital due to your diagnosis of Coronavirus?	○ Yes ○ No
Have you had to self-isolate?	○ Yes ○ No
For what reason did you have to self-isolate? (select all that apply)	 □ Personal symptoms □ Personal diagnosis of COVID-19 □ Symptoms of a member of the household □ Exposure to a positive case of COVID-19 in the work environment □ Exposure to a positive case of COVID-19 in your personal environment □ Other (eg return from travel to high risk area)
How many clinical shifts in your rota have you missed due to self-isolation?	○ 0 ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5-7 ○ 8-10 ○ >10
Have you been offered any of the following psychological interventions via your current place of work? (Select all that apply)	 ☐ Structured individual therapy with a therapist (in person/on telephone) ☐ Advice line / helpline ☐ Internet based psychological intervention ☐ Well-being app / website ☐ Brief TRiM / "safe space" session (trauma risk management) ☐ Other please state
Other, please specify	
During your time working in the COVID-19 pandemic have you experienced any of the following? (Select all that apply)	☐ Feelings that you made a contribution ☐ A sense of personal accomplishment ☐ Improved confidence and self esteem ☐ Increased compassion ☐ Re-evaluation of self and purpose ☐ Work satisfaction ☐ A sense of team cohesion
Would you be happy to be contacted about any further COVID-19 related research focusing on the psychological impact on Doctors?	○ Yes ○ No

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CERA Survey 3

Please complete the survey below.

Thank you!

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This is part 3 of the CERA study. Thank you for taking the time to fill out the questions below. It will take between 5 to 7 minutes.

We recommend using either a tablet or computer screen but the questions are accessible via mobile phones.

All questions should be answered in reference to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Impact of Events Scale - Revised, should be answered in reference to your feelings over the last 7 days and all other questions should be answered in reference to your feelings over the past few weeks.

Finally, we understand that throughout the COVID-19 pandemic many of you may have experienced very challenging events both in your personal and professional lives. We thank you for taking the time to complete this study and hope it offers an anonymised opportunity to report the psychological impact of this pandemic. If you need any further support there are details highlighted in the participant information leaflet that can be downloaded below.

If you want to download the participant information leaflet, which outlines the study and available support, please download below.

[Attachment: "CERA PIS V 1.1.docx"]		
I consent to taking part in CERA survey 3.	○ Yes ○ No	

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Impact of Events Scale - Revised

Below is a list of difficulties people sometimes have after stressful life events. Please read each item, and then indicate how distressing each difficulty has been for you DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS with respect to the COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

How much have you been distressed or bothered by these difficulties?

	Not at all	A little bit	Moderately	Quite a bit	Extremely
Any reminder brought back feelings about it	0	0	0	0	0
I had trouble staying asleep	\circ	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ
Other things kept me thinking about it	0	0	0	0	0
I felt irritable and angry	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
I avoided letting myself get upset when I thought about it or was reminded of it	0	0	0	0	0
I thought about it when I didn't mean to	0	0	0	0	0
I felt as if it hadn't happened or wasn't real	0	0	0	0	0
I stayed away from reminders of	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Fictures about it popped into my head	0	0	0	0	0
I was jumpy and easily startled	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
I tried not to think about it	\circ	\circ	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ
I was aware that I still had a lot of feelings about it, but I didn't deal with them	0	0	0	0	0
My feelings about it were kind of numb	0	0	0	0	0
I found myself acting or feeling like I was back at that time	0	0	0	0	0
I had trouble falling asleep	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
I had waves of strong feelings about it	0	0	0	0	0
I tried to remove it from my memory	0	0	0	0	0
I had trouble concentrating	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\bigcirc
Reminders of it caused me to have physical reactions, such as sweating, trouble breathing, nausea or a pounding heart	0	0	0	0	0

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I had dreams about it	\circ	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	
I felt watchful and on-guard	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	
I tried not to talk about it	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	

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Occupational Factors	
How confident do you feel in the infection control training that has been provided to you?	 Not confident at all Somewhat not confident Neither not confident or confident Somewhat confident Very confident
How prepared do you feel to provide direct care to suspected cases?	 Completely unprepared Somewhat unprepared Neither unprepared or prepared Somewhat prepared Very prepared
How do you feel the care received by patients who are NOT presenting with either symptoms or a diagnosis of COVID-19 is?	 Significantly worse than before Covid-19 Slightly worse than before Covid-19 The same as before Covid-19 Slightly better than before Covid-19 Significantly better than before Covid-19
Have you been deployed back to your usual clinical area after re-deployment?	○ Yes ○ No
How many suspected cases of COVID-19 have you had direct clinical contact with since March 1st 2020?	○ 0 ○ 1-5 ○ 6-10 ○ 11-15 ○ 16-20 ○ 21-25 ○ 26-30 ○ 31-35 ○ > 36
As far as you are aware, how many of these suspected cases have turned out to be confirmed cases of COVID-19?	○ 0 ○ 1-5 ○ 6-10 ○ 11-15 ○ 16-20 ○ 21-25 ○ 26-30 ○ 31-35 ○ > 36
How many patients have you witnessed dying with COVID-19?	○ 0 ○ 1-5 ○ 6-10 ○ 11-15 ○ 16-20 ○ 21-25 ○ 26-30 ○ 31-35 ○ > 36

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Personal Factors	
Do you feel exposure to the COVID-19 pandemic has increased symptoms of any established mental health condition(s) you have personally?	 Yes No Prefer not to disclose I do not have an established mental health condition
Do you feel exposure to the COVID-19 pandemic has increased symptoms of any established physical health condition(s) you have personally?	 Yes No Prefer not to disclose I do not have an established physical health condition
During the COVID-19 pandemic, have you felt at high risk of dying/death?	○ Yes ○ No
I feel that my personal health is at risk during the COVID-19 outbreak due to my clinical role?	 Strongly disagree Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Strongly agree
How worried are you about the potential risks if you were to become infected with COVID-19?	 Extremely worried Generally worried Neither worried or not worried Generally not worried Not worried at all
How worried are you about the potential risks to your family, loved ones or others due to your clinical role in the COVID-19 outbreak?	 Extremely worried Generally worried Neither worried or not worried Generally not worried Not worried at all
Have any of your family, friends, or loved ones become unwell or died due to COVID-19 or its complications? (select all that apply)	 □ Unwell at home □ Unwell and required non-ICU hospital treatment □ Unwell and required ICU treatment □ Died
Have any of your colleagues become unwell or died due to COVID-19 or its complications? (select all that apply)	 □ Unwell at home □ Unwell and required non-ICU hospital treatment □ Unwell and required ICU treatment □ Died
In the last 2 weeks I have felt well supported by friends and family	 Strongly disagree Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Strongly agree

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In the last 2 weeks I have felt well supported by the senior clinical leadership team	 Strongly disagree Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Strongly agree 	

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Personal Coronavirus	
Have you received a positive diagnosis of Coronavirus during this pandemic?	○ Yes ○ No
Have you been admitted to hospital due to your diagnosis of Coronavirus?	○ Yes ○ No
Have you had to self-isolate?	○ Yes ○ No
For what reason did you have to self-isolate? (select all that apply)	 □ Personal symptoms □ Personal diagnosis of COVID-19 □ Symptoms of a member of the household □ Exposure to a positive case of COVID-19 in the work environment □ Exposure to a positive case of COVID-19 in your personal environment □ Other (eg return from travel to high risk area)
How many clinical shifts in your rota have you missed due to self-isolation?	○ 0 ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5-7 ○ 8-10 ○ >10
Have you had a COVID-19 antibody test?	YesNoPrefer not to disclose
What was the result of your COVID-19 antibody test	○ Positive○ Negative○ I have not yet received the result○ Prefer not to disclose
Have you been offered any of the following psychological interventions via your current place of work? (Select all that apply)	 Structured individual therapy with a therapist (in person/on telephone) Advice line / helpline Internet based psychological intervention Well-being app / website Brief TRiM / "safe space" session (trauma risk management) Other please state
Other, please specify	
During your time working in the COVID-19 pandemic have you experienced any of the following? (Select all that apply)	☐ Feelings that you made a contribution ☐ A sense of personal accomplishment ☐ Improved confidence and self esteem ☐ Increased compassion ☐ Re-evaluation of self and purpose ☐ Work satisfaction ☐ A sense of team cohesion

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Confidential	Page 10	
Have you experienced any other factors during the COVID-19 pandemic that have made a positive impact on your psychological health?		

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The last 3 questions are optional and not related to the CERA study but will inform future			
planning for psychological interventions.			
We would like to know more about the type of psychological support doctors prefer. If you needed psychological support in relation to the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic, what would your preferences be in relation to:			
a) Format	 ○ Face to face individual ○ Face to face group therapy ○ Individual online therapy ○ Online support groups ○ Self help ○ Guided self help 		
b) Timing	 Immediate support during the COVID-19 pandemic Immediately after the COVID-19 pandemic After the COVID-19 pandemic following a period of rest and recuperation 		
c) Mode of therapy	Structured therapy e.g. CBTCounsellingPeer supportOther		
Please specify			

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