

An Update on Modernizing License and Credentialing Applications to Not Stigmatize Mental Health

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Barriers to Accessing Mental Health

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



Medical Licensure Questions and Physician Reluctance to Seek Care for Mental Health Conditions

Nearly **40% of physicians (2325 of 5829)** reported that they would be **reluctant to seek formal medical care for treatment of a mental health condition** because of concerns about repercussions to their medical licensure.

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Modern Healthcare

January 12, 2022 01:07 PM

The connection between credentialing and physician mental health self-care

Drs. Saranya



Dr. Saranya Loehrer, left, is a faculty member at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement; Dr. Joshua Allen-Dicker is an associate attending and director

The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law

Medical Licensure Questions About Mental Illness and Compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act

James T.R. Jones, Carol S. North, Suzanne Vogel-Scibilia, Michael
Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law Online December

Healio News

June 07, 2022 | 4 min read

Q&A: Physicians call for changes to medical licensing applications

By [Saranya Loehrer, MD, MPH](#)

By [Ankita Sagar, MD, MPH, FACP](#)

By [Stephanie Viguers](#)

Barriers to Accessing Mental Health

Medscape

US Physician Burnout & Depression Report

2023

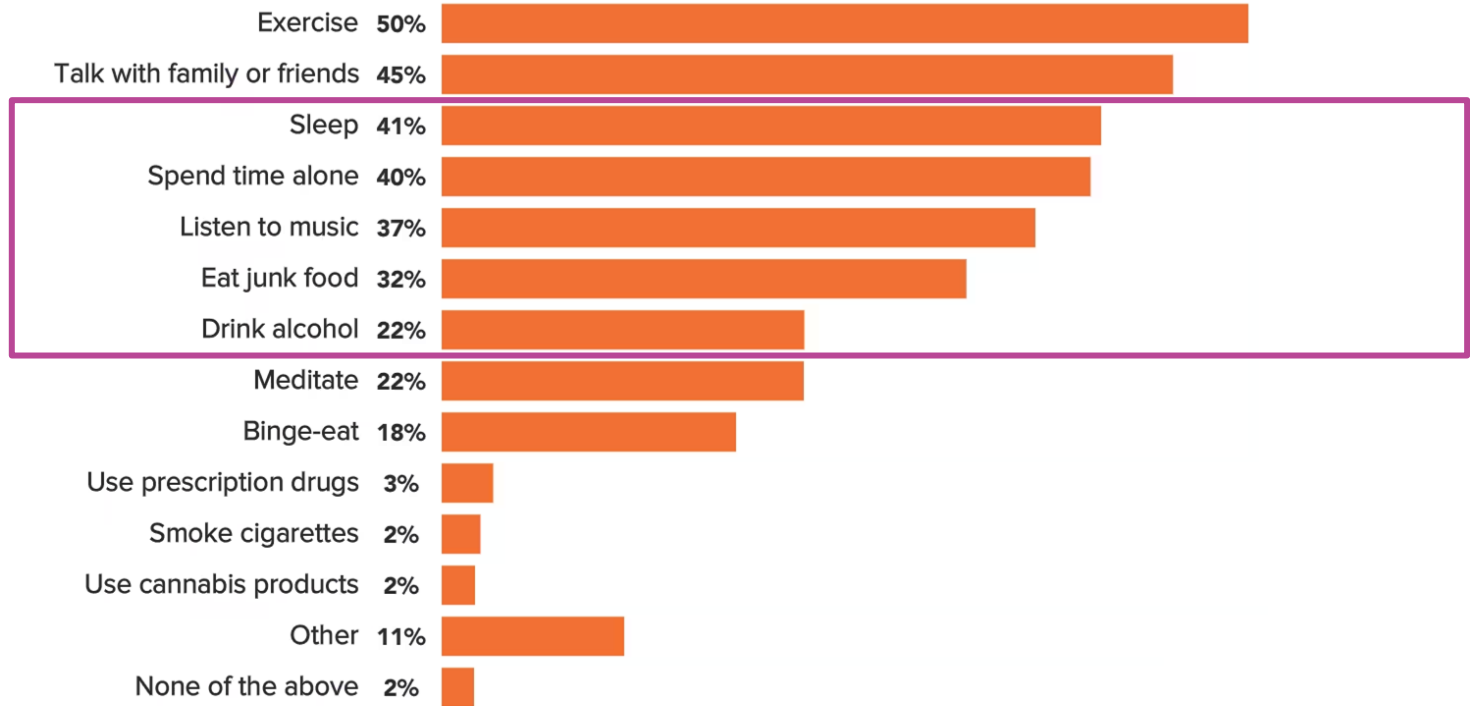


- 9,100 Physicians surveyed, across 29 specialties
- Internal Medicine scored 2nd highest on rates of burnout at 60%, second to Emergency Medicine
- Over 60% experienced burnout for 13 months or more

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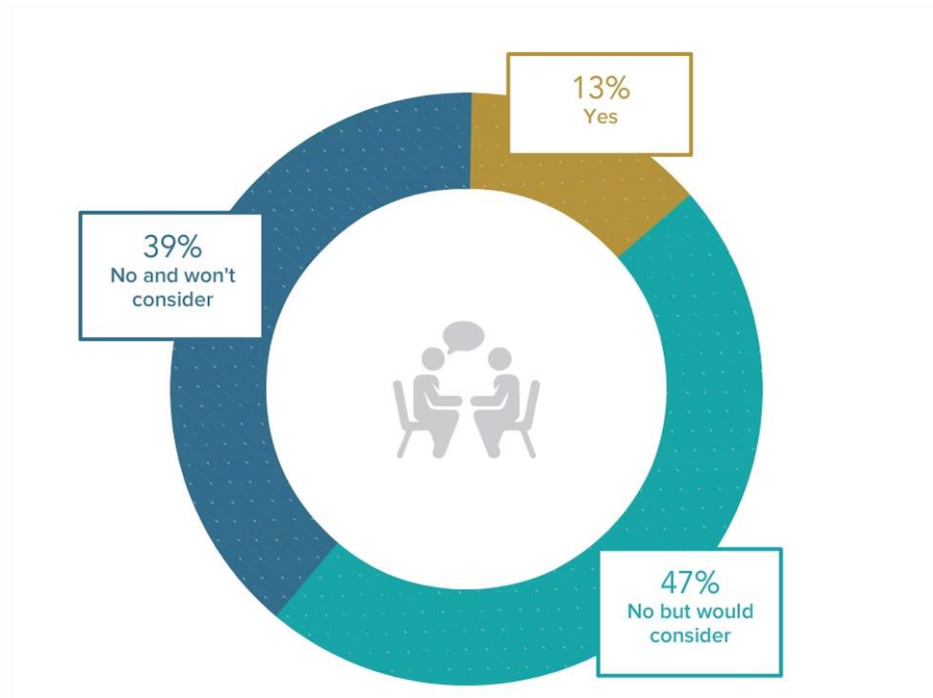


How do physicians cope with burnout?

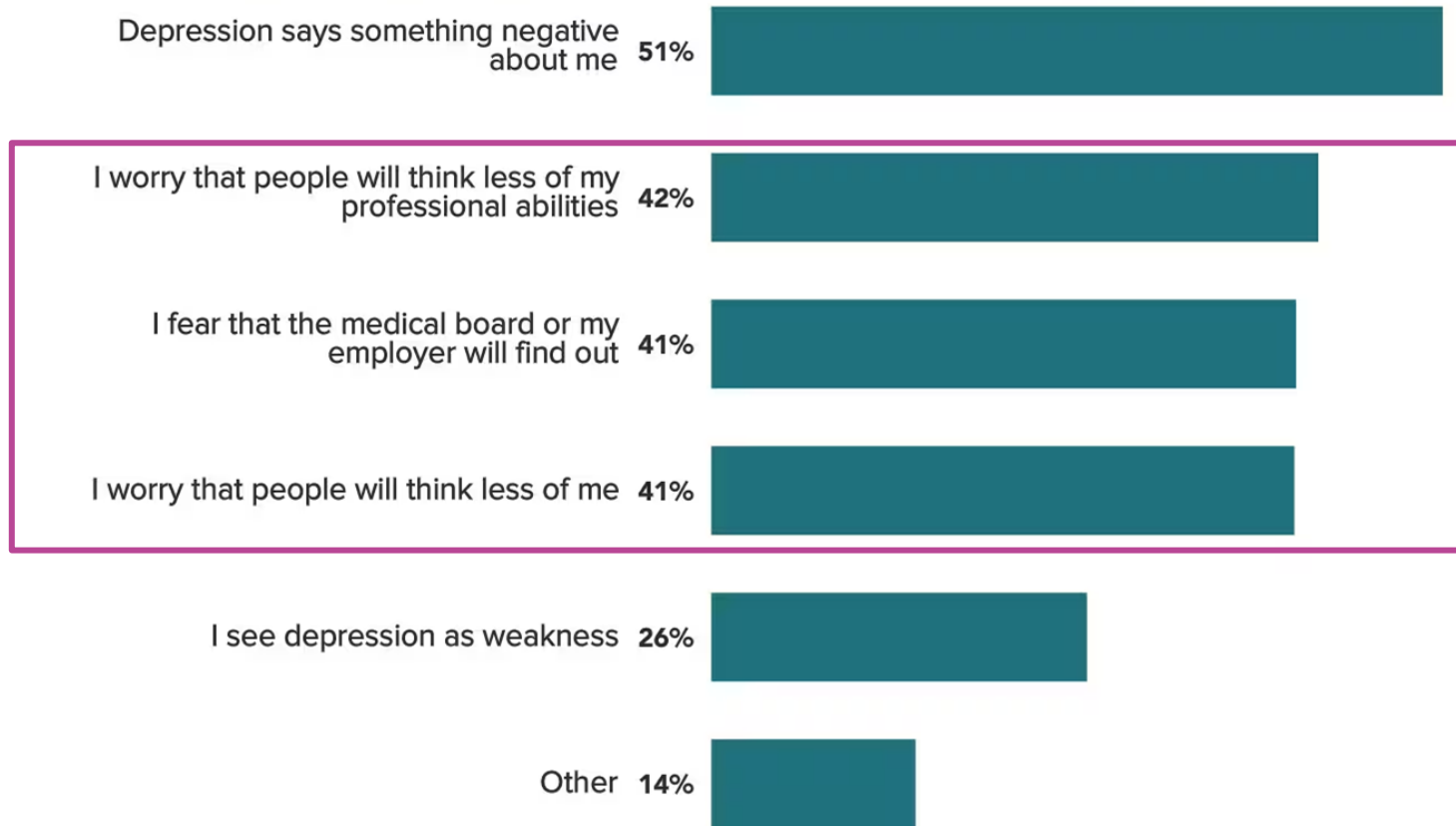


Respondents could choose multiple answers. Respondents who chose "None of the above" are not shown.

Do physicians seek help to reduce burnout?



Why don't physicians seek help to reduce burnout?



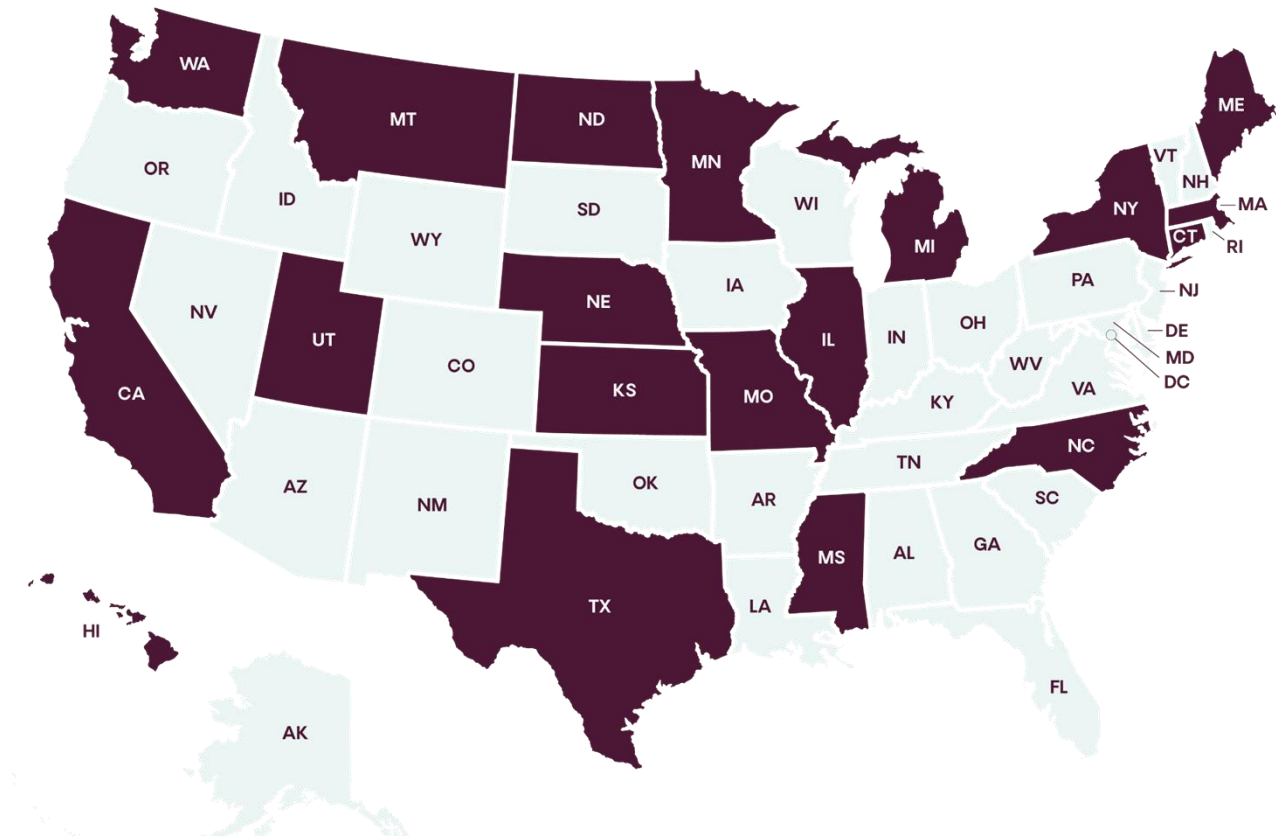
Recommended Language on Applications


Do you **currently** have any condition that adversely affects your ability to practice medicine in a safe, competent, ethical, and professional manner?


As of November 8, 2022, **19 states** have aligned their applications



All In
WellBeing First for Healthcare



 States where applications were consistent with our recommendations.

 States where applications were inconsistent with our recommendations or where applications could not be accessed for review.





Resolution & Reaffirmation

- Original resolution from 2017
- Reaffirmation in 2022 cosponsored by multiple chapters

“modernization of state licensure practices that focuses more on the functional impact of mental health diagnoses in physicians and limits additional administrative requirements so that it does not isolate prior or current mental health considerations from other medical considerations in the reporting process”



Annals of Internal Medicine

POSITION PAPER

Physician Impairment and Rehabilitation: Reintegration Into Medical Practice While Ensuring Patient Safety: A Position Paper From the American College of Physicians

Philip J. Candilis, MD; Daniel T. Kim, MA, MPH; and Lois Snyder Sulmasy, JD; for the ACP Ethics, Professionalism and Human Rights Committee*

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“Physicians may avoid seeking medical help because they fear loss of confidentiality and privacy, loss of livelihood, or the appearance of vulnerability or because they deny or subordinate their personal needs to practice demands and therefore do not recognize the impairment. The stigma of addiction and mental illness added to the concern that diagnosis may lead to professional liability or loss of licensure can compel physicians to suffer in silence and delay seeking help.”



Advocacy Toolkit

- Background Information
- Example/Template Letter for advocacy within your organization
- Example/Template PowerPoint to “Make the Case” for changing/aligning with recommended language for credentialing applications

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Pro Tip:

Template letters and powerpoint slides are adaptable to the local efforts!

Cross organization Collaboration



Institute for
Healthcare
Improvement

IHI Leadership Alliance Help Health Care
Heal Coalition

- A special initiative hosted by the IHI Leadership Alliance that was created to collaboratively advance this work.
- Founded in 2021, launched in 2022
- ACP leaders and members are actively involved, including:
 - Dr. Eileen Barrett
 - Dr. Susan Hingle
 - Dr. Richard Wardrop
 - Dr. Priya Radhakrishnan
- Enhances cross organizational collaboration and momentum building

Scan here to learn more





Chapter Collaboration

Modernizing License and Credentialing Applications to Not Stigmatize Mental Health Webinar

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 8:00 - 9:00 pm (Eastern)

Virtual - Zoom Webinar

- Panel Discussion focused on identifying barriers and best practices for non-stigmatizing language in licensing and credentialing applications for physicians.
- Small Group Breakout Rooms focused on brainstorming next steps at the state and/or organizational levels.

Scan here to register



Panelists:

Eileen Barrett, MD, MACP
Harvir Gambhir Singh, MD, FACP
Danielle Kochen, MD
Priya Radhakrishnan, MD, FACP
Ankita Sagar, MD, FACP
Richard Wardrop, MD, FACP

Call to Action

- **Review** ACP Advocacy Toolkit
- **Register** for the upcoming webinar:
Modernizing License and Credentialing Applications
to Not Stigmatize Mental Health Webinar
 - Tuesday, March 14, 2023 8:00 - 9:00 pm (Eastern)
 - Virtual - Zoom Webinar
- **Share** this information with one colleague

