

HARVARD PILGRIM HEALTH CARE

RESEARCH INTEGRITY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I. What is “research misconduct?”

Research misconduct means fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or applying for research funds, reviewing research, or in reporting research results.

II. What is the difference between fabrication and falsification?

1. Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them.
2. Falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.

III. What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.

IV. What should I do, who should I contact if I suspect research misconduct?

You should immediately contact the Research Integrity & Compliance Officer (the “RICO”) at HPHCI.

V. What if I am not sure that what I think is misconduct, is actually misconduct?

Contact the RICO.

VI. Should I conduct my own investigation first and do I have to be absolutely positive that there was research misconduct?

You should not conduct your own investigation first when you suspect research misconduct. That is the job of the RICO. You do not have to be positive at all that there was research misconduct, a good faith belief is sufficient.

VII. What if I am wrong and there were no research misconduct, simply a mistake?

1. Allegations of research misconduct are handled confidentially and every attempt is made to protect the reputation of the accused and the confidentiality of the reporter’s identity.
2. Mistakes happen. Difference of opinion or honest error do not constitute research misconduct.