Supplemental Digital Content 1. Table. Survey items from the validated Health Care System Distrust Scale, adapted for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). All items are rated strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5), with reverse scoring for positive valence items (\*).

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| 1. The VA does its best to make patients’ health better.\* |
| 2. The VA covers up its mistakes. |
| 3. Patients receive high-quality medical care from the VA.\* |
| 4. The VA makes too many mistakes. |
| 5. The VA puts making money above patients’ needs. |
| 6. The VA gives excellent medical care.\* |
| 7. Patients get the same medical treatment from the VA, no matter what the patient’s race or ethnicity.\* |
| 8. The VA lies to make money. |
| 9. The VA experiments on patients without them knowing. |