

# Sanctuary Doctoring: *Strategies & Resources to Care for Our Immigrant Neighbors*

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*At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Identify the professional and moral sources of the obligations of healthcare providers to patients who are immigrants
2. Develop strategies to make healthcare facilities welcoming and trustworthy environments.
3. Identify information and resources that health-care institutions and health-care professionals can make available to promote the health of patients who are immigrants to the US.



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# Whoe We Are: Mission & Values of Healthcare Professions & Institutions (non- profit)

*Developed through long history of doctor-patient relationship and social contract, e.g., Hippocratic Oath, AMA Code of Ethics, EMTALA, 501c3 status, regulations, etc.*



Care (Welcoming environment)



Efficiency



Health of the  
Community (Public  
health)



# Important!

**Nothing** in this presentation suggests that you break the law!

We seek to fulfill **our mission** of delivering efficient and effective **health care** to our communities to the fullest extent of the law.



# Sanctuary

Decoupling **health, education, public safety** from immigration status

# What are we worried about?

 Newsweek

## Border Patrol Warning Issued Ahead of Mass Deportations

The National Border Patrol Council issued a stark warning to Democratic leaders and sanctuary cities as the incoming Trump administration...

**EXCLUSIVE**

NEWS

## Trump plans to scrap policy restricting ICE arrests at churches, schools and hospitals

The long-standing policy has prevented ICE agents from arresting immigrants at so-called sensitive locations except under certain circumstances.

1. Patients not seeking timely care – fear driven
  - Create welcoming environment
  - Create spaces that are as safe as possible
  
2. Toxic stress on Patients
  - Empower with resources & information



## The Catholic Tradition St. John Paul II:

- Natural right to migrate
- Migrants do not forfeit their dignity

“... the Synod Fathers recalled that “the Church in America must be a vigilant advocate, defending against any unjust restriction the **natural right of individual persons to move freely** within their own nation and from one nation to another. Attention must be called to the rights of migrants and their families and to respect for their **human dignity**, even in **cases of non-legal immigration**”.

(236)

*Ecclesia in America 1999*



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# Justice for immigrants is a first-tier issue for Christians

“We often hear it said that with respect to relativism and the flaws of our present world, the situation of immigrants, for example, is a lesser issue. Some Catholics consider it a secondary issue compared to the “grave” bioethical questions. That a politician looking for votes might say such a thing is understandable , but not a Christian, for whom **the only proper attitude is to stand in the shoes of those brothers and sisters of ours who risk their lives to offer a future to their children.**”

Pope Francis

*Gaudete et Exsultate* (#102)

# What's in a name?

Undocumented immigrants

Refugees

Asylum Seekers

Legal Permanent Residents (LPS) ak.a.  
Green Card Holders

TPS (Temporary Protected Status)

DACA Recipients

*Significant overlapping concerns, e.g., safety, resources*





*In general, patients who are immigrants use few health care because of their youth.*

They also underutilize health care resources because of

- Fear
- Lack of trust
- Logistical/financial barriers, and
- Desire not to take things they cannot pay for.

## Clinical Challenges

- Create welcoming & Safe Environment – Signage, Printed material, “Front Door Policy”
- Connecting with appropriate resources (legal, KYR training)

# Refresh Front Door Policy

Visit NILC: “Health Care Providers and Immigration Enforcement: Know Your Rights, Know Your Patients’ Rights” <https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2024-Health-Care-Providers-and-Immigration-Enforcement-Know-Your-Rights-Know-Your-Patients-Rights.pdf>

- No access to patient information **w/o judicial warrant**
- Designate **private areas** versus public waiting areas
- Environmental cues: Include immigration status in all non-discrimination statements



# Objectives of Sanctuary Doctoring

[LUC.edu/sanctuarydoctor](http://LUC.edu/sanctuarydoctor)

Mark Kuczewski, Johana Mejias-Beck J, Amy Blair (2019). Good Sanctuary Doctoring for Undocumented Patients. *AMA Journal of Ethics*, 21(1): E78-85

## 01

*Provide Resources*

*Begin to develop an  
Emergency Plan  
(update contacts)*

## 02

Open a dialogue

Provide Reassurance



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## Immigration Status and Your Health



Immigration problems can impact your health or the health of a family member or neighbor. Your doctor and the clinic team can help.

This doctor's office is a safe place to discuss your concerns and find resources.

*If you would like to talk to your doctor or any of us here at Access to Care about immigration-related problems, just hand this brochure to the doctor or any of the staff.*

- *Flier templates*
- *Google & network!*



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## **LEGAL RESOURCES:**

### **Know Your Rights**

We recommend that you find and attend a “Know Your Rights” training conducted by a qualified legal services provider. It may help to view online know-your-rights resources if you are unable to find an in-person training session. It is important to know what to do if federal agents come to your door. This information usually includes making a “safety plan” regarding what to do if you are detained and you have dependent children in need of care.

- **ACLU** [www.aclu.org/know-your-rights](http://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights)
- **National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)**  
<https://immigrantjustice.org/know-your-rights/ice-encounter>

### **Immigration Attorney Services**

➤ Google: Immigrant Legal Services

Your search engine may already know your location; or enter location, e.g., Chicago area

## High Priority! Updating Emergency Contacts

If you are a parent, you want to be sure that your children will be picked up from school by the family members or persons you wish should you be detained.

**Important:** Be sure that the **Emergency Contact** information at your child's school is up to date with the name and phone number of the persons you choose. This will be the person the school calls if you do not show up to pick up your children and cannot be reached. You can usually do this online at the webpage of your child's school or school district. It can also usually be done in person at the school's administrative office.

**You should update this information immediately!**

## Developing an Emergency Plan

The websites below will help you to make a more detailed plan in the event of being detained unexpectedly. There are many other good sites on the internet as well.

- American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Creating a Family Immigration Raid Emergency Plan (En Inglés y Español)  
[https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/im\\_emergplan\\_020817.pdf](https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/im_emergplan_020817.pdf)
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Family Preparedness Plan  
[https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/plan\\_de\\_preparacion\\_familiar.v3.pdf](https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/plan_de_preparacion_familiar.v3.pdf) (Español)
- [https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/family\\_preparedness\\_plan.pdf](https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/family_preparedness_plan.pdf) (Inglés)



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### Social and Educational Information for Undocumented Youth

Undocumented young people, sometimes called Dreamers, often face considerable stress for a number of reasons. Their own future prospects for things such as higher education can seem limited and they, of course, fear the deportation of loved ones or themselves. A number of advocacy organizations can provide information on navigating potential opportunities and can help individuals to understand that others have faced similar barriers and there can be strategies to address them. Finding local youth advocacy organizations for undocumented youth can be helpful. There are also important national organizations that can provide helpful information and guidance, especially regarding educational opportunities.

#### National Resources

- **United We Dream**  
<https://unitedwedream.org/resources/>
- **Scholarships A – Z**  
[www.scholarshipsaz.org](http://www.scholarshipsaz.org)
- **Immigrants Rising**  
<https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/overview/>
- **US Department of Education, Supporting Undocumented Youth**  
[www2.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/supporting-undocumented-youth.pdf](http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/supporting-undocumented-youth.pdf)

#### Local Educational Resources

- Google: educational resources immigrant students, Chicago area

**Flyer Templates in**  
*English and Spanish*

available at

[LUC.edu/sanctuarydoctor](http://LUC.edu/sanctuarydoctor)

Adapt and alter  
to meet the needs of your patients!



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# References – Skills Development

- Toolkits:
  - **Sanctuary Doctoring** [LUC.edu/sanctuarydoctor](https://luc.edu/sanctuarydoctor)
  - **Doctors For Immigrants Toolkit** [WelcomingProtectingImmigrants-toolkit-3.pdf](https://welcomingprotectingimmigrants-toolkit-3.pdf) ([doctorsforimmigrants.com](https://doctorsforimmigrants.com))
  - AAP Immigrant Child Toolkit <https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/immigrant-child-health/>
  - Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project <https://help.asylum.advocacy.org>
- **National Immigration Law Center, NILC: “Health Care Providers and Immigration Enforcement: Know Your Rights, Know Your Patients’ Rights”** <https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2024-Health-Care-Providers-and-Immigration-Enforcement-Know-Your-Rights-Know-Your-Patients-Rights.pdf>
- Physicians for Human Rights, Asylum Examination Training <https://phr.org/issues/asylum-and-persecution/asylum-network-trainings/>
- Ferdowsian H, McKenzie K, Zeidan A. 2019. Asylum Medicine: Standard and Best Practices. *Health and Human Rights Journal* 21(1): 215-225.
- Kuczewski MG, Mejias-Beck J, Blair A. (2019) Good Sanctuary Doctoring for Undocumented Patients. *AMA Journal of Ethics* 21(1): E78-85. <https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/good-sanctuary-doctoring-undocumented-patients/2019-01>
- Kuczewski M, Saadi A. (2024) Medicine Must Plan to Protect Immigrant Patients and Their Families: With an Election Looming, the Time Is Now. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. Published online October 28, 2024. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2024.6178

