

# Sanctuary Doctoring

Supporting Undocumented Patients and Others  
Affected by Immigration Concerns

Johana Mejias-Beck

Mark Kuczewski

Loyola University Chicago

Stritch School of Medicine



**STRITCH**  
SCHOOL of MEDICINE

Objective #1:

# Open a Dialogue

with the patient about Immigration-related stressors

- a. Patient may open dialogue based on seeing your button or brochure.
- b. Help them to understand that their concerns are normal. Place in Context: “Many of my patients are currently experiencing anxiety concerning immigration problems.”
- c. Generalize: “Are you, someone in your family, or your friends having these kinds of problems?”



## Objective #2:

# Provide Reassurance

- a. Assure of **confidentiality**: *“I will not write your immigration status in the medical record. Only health-related issues will be recorded.”*
- b. Explain your motive: “This kind of anxiety can impact your health. You are safe to express your concerns here.”
- c. Keep contextualizing: “Many people are going through similar struggles right now. You are not alone”



Objective #3:

## Provide Resources

*Use “Sanctuary Doctors” brochure*

- a. Recommend that youth connect with networks of undocumented young people, a.k.a Dreamer organizations – maybe follow online in order to learn about opportunities and to keep up with new information
- b. Legal resources available in brochure



**STRITCH**  
SCHOOL of MEDICINE

## Objective #4:

# Planning for an Emergency

*Use “Sanctuary Doctors” brochure*

- a. Recommend Know Your Rights training from qualified provider; give example of how it can help, e.g., not opening door w/o warrant (We may wish to offer such a session in the clinic itself; the brochure lists online versions of this information)
- b. Recommend updating emergency contacts at children’s school or day care; include who should pick up child if parent cannot

