

# Sanctuary Doctoring

Supporting Undocumented Patients and  
Others Affected by Immigration Concerns

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

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**STRITCH**  
SCHOOL of MEDICINE

# Objectives

1. Open a dialogue
2. Provide Reassurance
3. Provide Resources
4. Begin to develop an Emergency Plan  
(update contacts)

*This model enables you to provide emotional support and possible action steps within 10 minutes*



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



## 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. *For instance, all DACA recipients are currently eligible to renew. Some community organizations have renewal assistance available. Important to be networked to stay current on these developments.*
- b. Legal resources available in brochure



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 (You 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



# Continue your Professional Development

- Find your own information networks
  - Professional societies
  - Immigrant Advocacy Organization
  - Lawyer networks
- Read & Learn more about the continuum of immigration and patient needs

