Nancy Berlinger is a Hastings Center research scholar whose work focuses on two major themes: ethical and societal challenges arising from population aging, and the role of health practitioners, systems, and policymakers in the care and wellbeing of migrants. These themes reflect her longstanding interests in decision-making and care concerning serious illness and near the end of life; safety and harm in health systems, and the moral dimensions of care work. She publishes, presents, and speaks to the media frequently on topics within these themes.

Nancy Berlinger’s longstanding work on health care access for undocumented immigrants, including the Undocumented Patients public database and resources, has expanded in response to federal policy changes affecting legally present immigrants and asylum seekers. In 2018 she convened “Creating Systems of Safety for Immigrant Health,” a practitioner-led initiative to explore how health systems in collaboration with other sectors should respond to policy changes with negative health consequences for immigrants and their families. A 2014 convening in partnership with the New York Immigration Coalition produced recommendations for a direct-access approach to health care for uninsured undocumented immigrants which was subsequently piloted and fully implemented in the municipal health system in New York City. She was a 2018 resident at the Bellagio Center of the Rockefeller Foundation for a book project on migration and urbanism. She serves on the Bioethics Committee of Montefiore Medical Center (Bronx, NY) and on Montefiore’s Ethics Review Committees on hospice access for patients alone, and teaches an interdisciplinary course on migration at Lehman College, City University of New York.

Nancy Berlinger is a graduate of Smith College and received a doctorate in English literature from the University of Glasgow and a master of divinity, with a focus on ethics, from Union Theological Seminary.

Selected recent work on immigrant health and on safety and harm in health systems:


“More Than Just Sanctuary, Migrants Need Social Citizenship,” Aeon, August 29, 2017. Read here


Books:


