



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:

“Getting Creative’: From Workarounds to Sustainable Solutions for Immigrant Health Care.” *Journal of Law Medicine & Ethics* 47, no. 3 (2019): 409-11. Read abstract [here](#)

Jacqueline L. Angel and Nancy Berlinger, “The Trump Administration’s Assault on Health and Social Programs: Potential Consequences for Older Hispanics,” *Journal of Aging and Social Policy* 30:3-4 (2018):300-315. Read abstract [here](#)

Lilia Cervantes, Stacy Fischer, Nancy Berlinger, et al., “The Illness Experience of Undocumented Immigrants with End-stage Renal Disease,” *JAMA Internal Medicine* 177, no. 4 (2017): 529-535. Read [here](#)

“More Than Just Sanctuary, Migrants Need Social Citizenship,” *Aeon*, August 29, 2017. Read [here](#)

Nancy Berlinger, Laura Guidry-Grimes, and Adira Hulkower, “Knowledge is Key for Safety-Net Providers,” *Health Progress* (July-August 2017): 9-14. Read [here](#)

Nancy Berlinger, “Undocumented Immigrants and Access to Rehabilitation Services: Safety and Harm in the Aftermath of Occupational Injury,” *PM&R* 9 (2017): 408-10. Read [here](#)

Nancy Berlinger, Claudia Calhoun, Michael K Gusmano, and Jacqueline Vimo, “Undocumented Patients and Access to Health Care in New York City: Identifying Fair, Effective, and Sustainable Local Policy Solutions: Report and Recommendations to the Office of the Mayor of New York City,” The Hastings Center and the New York Immigration Coalition, April 2015. Read [here](#)

N Berlinger and R Raghavan, “The Ethics of Advocacy for Undocumented Patients,” *Hastings Center Report* 43, no.1 (2013): 14-17. Read abstract [here](#)

Books:

Nancy Berlinger, *Are Workarounds Ethical? Managing Moral Problems in Health Care Systems* (Oxford University Press, 2016).

Nancy Berlinger, Bruce Jennings, and Susan M. Wolf, *The Hastings Center Guidelines for Decisions on Life-Sustaining Treatment and Care Near the End of Life: Revised and Expanded Second Edition* (Oxford University Press, 2013; Japanese translation, 2016).

Nancy Berlinger, *After Harm: Medical Error and the Ethics of Forgiveness* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005).

Jacqueline J. Chin, Nancy Berlinger, Michael C. Dunn, Calvin W-L. Ho, Michael K. Gusmano, eds., *Making Difficult Decisions with Patients and Families: A Singapore Casebook* (National University of Singapore, January 2014) Read [here](#)

Jacqueline J. Chin, Nancy Berlinger, Michael C. Dunn, Michael K. Gusmano, eds., *Caring for Older People in an Ageing Society: A Singapore Bioethics Casebook, Volume II* (National University of Singapore, May 2017) Read [here](#)