How can nurses support sexual assault victims and survivors?

**Be a resource.**

Let patients know that you are a resource verbally or posting signs in visible spaces in a healthcare setting.

**Screen for sexual assault.**

Patients may think their assault is irrelevant information to tell a healthcare provider. Screening at every appointment is important for them to know healthcare providers are a safe space, ease the process of disclosure, and can provide a variety of resources.

**Create a therapeutic environment.**

A therapeutic environment helps to achieve a trusting relationship that is welcoming for a patient.

(Lanthier et al., 2018)

**Provide careful explanations.**

Explain procedures carefully and allow patients as much time as they need to feel ready and safe.

**Advocate for sexual assault victims and survivors.**

Advocate to relieve healthcare barriers and support new interventions to alleviate barriers.

(Berry & Rutledge, 2016)