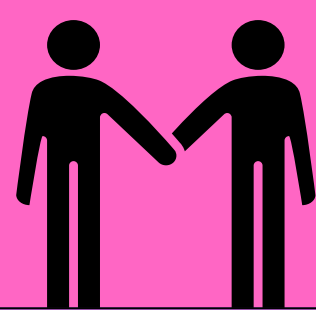


HOW CAN NURSES SUPPORT

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.

(Berry & Rutledge, 2016)

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.

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