

Patients who are sexually abused by nurses feel:

Disgusted Humiliated
Uncomfortable Shocked Upset
Assaulted Surprised Awkward
Violated Devastated Frozen
Anxious Fearful Guilt-ridden
Nervous Ashamed
Insecure Vulnerable Afraid Raped Embarrassed
Devastated Defeated Confused
Embarrassed Tired
Apprehensive Assaulted
Sick Unsafe

Information gathered from CNO Professional Conduct files related to sexual abuse.



It is the nurse's responsibility to maintain boundaries with a patient. Crossing a boundary means the nurse is misusing their position of power in the nurse-patient relationship to meet their personal needs, rather than the patient's. **Even if a patient agrees to sexual touching or sexual relations with a nurse, it is still considered sexual abuse.**

For more information on preventing sexual abuse, visit www.cno.org.