

**Sexual assault forensic examiners (SAFEs) provide health care and medical forensic evidence collection in cases of sexual assault.**

**There are two approaches to care that guide SAFEs:**

- A patient-centered orientation = preferred approach that emphasizes attending to emotional needs, offering options, and respecting survivors' decisions
- A prosecutorial orientation = emphasizes evidence collection and has been associated with fewer comprehensive services



**There is a need to better understand how training can bolster the use of patient-centered orientation.**

**Results from qualitative interviews with 64 health care professionals who participated in SAFE training revealed several elements of the training influenced participants to shift toward a patient-centered orientation.**



- Clarifying that the SAFE's role is on patient care including helping survivors feel safe and restoring their sense of control
- Explaining survivors' help-seeking concerns that health care providers will judge, blame, or disbelieve them
- Dispelling misconceptions of survivors and reiterating the importance of treating all survivors in a compassionate nonjudgmental manner
- Providing content on how-to attend to survivors' well-being and how this can lead to more positive outcomes
- Placing patient-centered care earlier in the training and connecting medical forensic evidence to patient-centered care throughout the training



# Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs)

TOWARD A PATIENT-CENTERED ORIENTATION