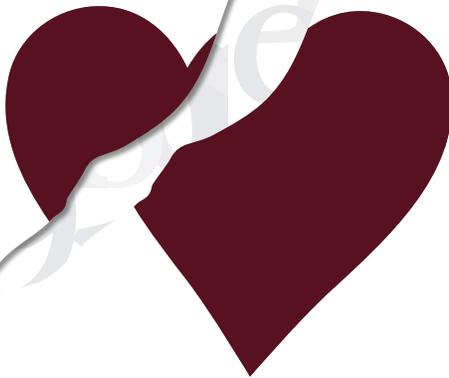




PROBLEM GAMBLING TOOLKIT

For substance abuse counselors, health
therapists, primary care physicians, and
social service workers



Association of Problem Gambling
Service Administrators



National Council
on Problem Gambling



PROBLEM GAMBLING TOOLKIT

Substance abuse counselors, mental health therapists, primary care physicians, and social service workers are increasingly confronted with consumers who are in need of services that address problem gambling issues. This toolkit was developed by the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) and the Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators (APGSA) to respond to requests for basic problem gambling screening, assessment, referral, and treatment information.

The rate of co-occurrence of problem or pathological gambling among people with substance abuse disorders has been reported as ranging from 9 percent to 16 percent. At a minimum, the rate of problem gambling among people with substance use disorders is four to five times that found in the general population. **Therefore, it is recommended that all consumers presenting with substance abuse and mental health issues should be screened for gambling problems.**

The following materials have been assembled to respond to requests for information about problem gambling:

- Excerpts on problem gambling from TIP 42: *Substance Abuse Treatment for Persons With Co-Occurring Disorders*. Excerpts from TIP 42 identify key elements of programming in substance abuse treatment agencies that address co-occurring disorders. The elements described have relevance for mental health agencies and other service systems that seek to coordinate mental health and substance abuse services for their clients who need both.
- *Problem Gamblers and Their Finances: A Guide for Treatment Professionals*. This guide is designed to provide treatment professionals with a basic understanding of the financial issues that confront the problem gambler and potential financial strategies.
- *Personal Financial Strategies for the Loved Ones of Problem Gamblers*. This handbook is designed to help loved ones of the problem gambler. It will suggest ways to deal with personal financial issues due to gambling before they become a major financial problem. It also can help the loved one of a problem gambler recover financially if he or she already has serious money problems.

It is important to note that this material does not mitigate the need for specific training when treating a problem gambler.

NCPG is the national advocate for programs and services to assist problem gamblers and their families. The NCPG Web site (www.ncpgambling.org) contains additional information and materials. APGSA (www.apgsa.org) is a strong, unified voice to support the development of state of the art, publicly funded problem gambling services.

For nationwide, 24-hour access to confidential information and referral services, call The National Problem Gambling Helpline Network toll-free at 1 (800) 522-4700.

This toolkit was developed by the National Council on Problem Gambling and the Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators with support from SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.